THE SPARTAN
Castleton State College student newspaper
September 10, 2008 www.castletonspartan.com Castleton, Vermont

INSIDE

NEWS

Ariel in Morocco: Former CSC student making a difference in the Peace Corps. **Page 4**

Talking Sex: Expert gives advice about safe sex. **Page 3**

A&E

Poker crazy: National poker craze hits Castleton campus. **Page 5**

SPORTS

Tough start: Men's soccer team starts the season 1-2 **Page 8**

OPINION

Castleton a campus of whiners? **Page 2**

NEXT ISSUE

Lower the drinking age?

College presidents want it lowered. Find out why.

INDEX

Editorial..... PAGE 2
News.....PAGE 3- 4
Entertainment... PAGE 5
From the Front ... PAGE 6
On Campus..... PAGE 7
Sports..... PAGE 8

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PHOTO BY REDIT:TERRY BADMAN

Several new additions to campus include the gazebo patio, several maple trees, and the crushed slate walkway.

Summer *of* change

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

A student takes advantage of the new library steps.

Campus is transforming, more changes to come

By Terry Badman
Spartan Editor

Returning students walking across campus to their morning classes may notice a few changes along Castleton's sidewalks, as several aesthetic additions were made across campus over the course of the summer.

"I'm surprised by the library steps," Castleton senior Chuck Smith said. "The change is pretty noticeable."

The entrance to the Calvin Coolidge Library now has a renovated slate stone flower garden – one that can actually support plant life – and the newly designed Senator's Courtyard stands as a brick and marble memorial gateway between the Jeffords and Stafford Center.

The renovated glass greenhouse next to the Jeffords Center now has it's own vegetable garden, complete with green, ripening, tomatoes hanging from the vine, and a plethora of multi-colored flowers.

Castleton Communication Director Ennis Duling recalls fond memories of the original greenhouse, which was replaced by the current modern reincarnation during the last school year.

"I remember when the old greenhouse was new," Duling said. "It was a magical place. I'd love to see this new one grow into something great again."

Also along campus, a wooden gazebo now sits on a multi-colored slate patio to the right side of the campus coffee cottage, allowing students an additional place to sip their Green Mountain Coffee before class each morning.

Young maple trees and shrubs were planted near and along the sidewalks connecting the academic buildings, while a crushed slate path now clearly marks the old campus shortcut that slices through the grass from the Jeffords Center to Leavenworth and Woodruff Halls.

And while Castleton students may be pleased at the sight of some newly added campus charms, the real kicker is in what it cost them financially: absolutely nothing.

"A lot of the cosmetic changes you see around campus were funded by private donations and state money," Castleton President Dave Wolk said. "Students aren't paying for it."

For instance, The Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation donated the maple trees and shrubs peppered across the east side of campus. The organization was founded by Castleton alum Alma Gibbs, who attended the school in the 1920's. Gibbs' foundation also donated money to renovate the campus' Old Chapel 20 years ago.

The Senator's Courtyard, which features a brick gate and marble plaques in tribute to former Vermont Senators Robert T. Stafford and James Jeffords, was created through funds obtained from the Jeffords donations to Castleton more than a year ago. As for the renovated library entrance and the stone patio near the coffee cottage, these were built by using capital money, which was given to Castleton by the state of Vermont.

Please see CHANGES, *PAGE 6*

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

Students walk to class past the newly dubbed "Senators Courtyard."

A clear message to all

By Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

The message was clear from Student Association President Ed MacEnulty and Castleton State College President Dave Wolk: do more than perform in classes, get involved on and off campus and make a difference.

After Wolk's opening remarks, MacEnulty was the second person to welcome everyone to the Aug. 28 convocation.

He, like Wolk, went on to talk about some of the many changes to the school since he came here, from the caliber of student to the various building projects.

But then he got to the theme of the day.

"Students can't restrict themselves to just school," he told the full Casella Theater. "I say get involved."

The importance of civic engagement and community involvement was then driven home further by Castleton student Justin Garritt.

Garritt produced a six-minute video put to music that showed dozens of pictures of Castleton students working on campus and in the community. Whether they were volunteering at a nearby school or collecting tabs for Shriners, the photos documented the difference students are making in the lives of local residents.

Also at convocation, Castleton alumnus Art Delerenzo was honored for his efforts to make a difference at Castleton since his graduation in 1964. He talked about how important Castleton was to his life, whether it was on the soccer field or in the classroom.

And despite having graduated 44 years ago, he talked about how he has remained very involved with the school through the Alumni Association Board and he urged students to do the same. In his speech, after being presented a rocking chair as this year's outstanding alumni, Delorenzo explained his reason for getting and staying so involved with the community.

"I need to get through this life by making a difference in the lives of other people," he said.

When Wolk took the floor again, he talked about two things that he said are important to the campus: sustainability and sexual tolerance.

By making sure that students and faculty recycle and reduce the school's impact on the environment, the college is acting as a leader among colleges, he said. Regarding sexual tolerance, he talked about the new group on campus called CHANGE, which stands for Creating, Honoring, Advocating, N, Gender, Equity.

Following the reported sexual assaults on campus last school year, CHANGE has been trying to transform the campus' attitudes toward others through such efforts

Please see MESSAGE, *PAGE 6*

Where do the presidential candidates stand?

By Courtney Bonoyer
Spartan Staff

When the interviews for this article in the presidential race started, it was obvious to assume there would be a lot of people who favored Barack Obama. After all, he seems to appeal to many young people and Vermonters.

But while he certainly had his support, what wasn't anticipated was how little students knew about him and fellow presidential hopeful John McCain.

Some of the answers from the dozen students interviewed included "I'm very ill informed about both," and "I like Obama, because he believes in change," and "I like McCain because he is the best of the worst," and even "It won't change my every day life, so I don't care."

When professors were interviewed, however, many, like Spanish professor Ana Maria Alfaro-Alexander, were able to give examples of what they liked.

She said she likes that Obama plans on giving a tax break to the middle class and that he wants to be independent of foreign oil by 2010.

Science professor Peter Kimmel favors Obama's timetable for withdrawing from Iraq and fellow science professor Brad Coupe feels that Obama is the better choice as he doesn't like McCain's "drill here, drill now approach."

However, even some faculty and staff members admitted to not being as informed about our country's presidential candidates as they'd like.

Because The Spartan feels it's important for potential voters to make an informed decision this November, here are some key

Please see ELECTION, *PAGE 6*

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

Just a moment of your time please

In last semester's final issue of The Spartan, journalism professor Dave Blow and myself humbly bid adieu to Janet Gillet. — one of the most beloved and respected editors to likely ever manage this crazy circus of a newspaper.

Janet graduated in the spring and has since gone on to graduate school to study psychology in Chicago. But before that – and this is the God's honest Gospel – Janet pretty much single-handedly ran every element of the paper: editor, designer, reporter, photographer, etc.

Pile on a full course-load of additional classes on top of that and you get the making for one either incredibly talented – or potentially crazy – person.

She'll admit that you have to be at least a little crazy to get involved in the journalism racket to begin. If that's the case, than she's easily the most talented lunatic I've ever met.

We're going to miss Janet, as well as some of our experienced ringers, who either graduated or transferred just as they were blossoming into full-blooded writers and journalists.

Their departure left myself, a few returning staffers, and a whole handful of supergreen freshman to fill the void.

A sane person would have cut and run right about now, likely citing the mere thought of their inevitable descent into madness as ample reason to say, "thanks, but no thanks, and screw you for asking."

Thankfully, possessing excessive quantities of sanity is frowned upon in The Spartan office.

Originally in this space, I had clip of my usual editorial page fodder: a trigger-happy assault on some current trend that pissed me off, like painted on emo-pants, poodles, or Hannah Montana's haircut.

People either loved or hated it, didn't get it, or never read it to being with. Such are the rewards of writing.

But as I spent a decent amount of time lying awake in bed last night, I figured it might be a good idea to holster my "bitching guns" for a while, and maybe use this space for reasons other than simply trying to sound like a witty smart ass.

I am, after all, pretty much responsible for what goes into this paper and what doesn't now. I have a certain amount of clout to live up to, which is no easy task.

The paper needs to be taken seriously. It's the student voice of the school. Do you realize how many people really DO read this paper, via the campus hard copies or through its website?

It's more than you think — a lot more.

You be surprised how many prospective students thumb around a college's newspaper on the Internet when scooping out potential places to set roots down.

I recall hearing complaints from prospective students' parents because our former editor, Dawson Raspuzzi, now a reporter at the Rutland Herald, wrote and ran a story called "A Bunch of Drunks at CSC?" on the front page of The Spartan.

It was an informative look at alcohol use on campus – and had a giant photo of a beer helmet-wearing undergrad smiling at the camera.

Parents and some faculty were peeved, saying the article – which also happened to come out around parent's weekend, I believe – made Castleton look like a bunch of amateurs.

That's not exactly the image you want prospective students to conjure up in their minds when the time comes to pick a college, especially one that's supposedly undergoing a massive facelift.

We have a lot of responsibility here at the paper and it's going to take a ton of work. But we're greener than usual this go round. Many of us are still learning the ropes on several things, while others are still looking for a rope to call their own.

We're just asking for a little bit of patience. No one here is out to expose anyone who didn't already have it coming to them – at least not on my watch.

But inevitably, mistakes will be made: by rookies and vets alike. Sooner or later, a reader is going to find an article they feel is slanted or biased, or they will find a story to be written in poor taste.

That's the nature of the beast at any newspaper.

The difference here is that we're all still feeling the process out. This is why we come to college, to make mistakes and hopefully take a thing or two away from them in the long run.

And as with any learning process, it requires patience and nurturing.

You don't scream at a toddler when it's learning to walk, do you?

I didn't think so.

-- Terry Badman

Castleton campus of whiners

Do you realize that you can't walk from Leavenworth to Woodruff without hearing some self-absorbed student whine about how much Castleton sucks?

You can't make it from your car to the front doors without hearing them talk about the professor they have who's just too hard, doesn't understand where the students are coming from, or doesn't know what the hell they're teaching.

"He has such an awful teaching style," is a term that frequently comes to mind.

Welcome to Castleton folks: the small school with the big heart, which according to some students on campus, maintains its iambic beat only to grasp for the wallets of its students and in return give nothing other than aggravation, stress, hard work (with little or no reward) and insensitive teachers.

They say Castleton can't provide its students with good food, proper parking, or an overall adequate learning environment. It hasn't anything to offer students and there's no hope here for those students yearning to make the big bucks, in the big world.

They say Castleton doesn't have teachers who care, doesn't have competent public safety officials, a knowledgeable administration, and worst of all… (and you may want to sit down for this one) it has a bad cooking staff.

What?! You're telling me the food at the college cafeteria isn't first class dining?! Campus safety doesn't have a staff of ex-CIA, Jack Bauer-esque, Navy-SEAL-trained, security guards?

Well hi, this is the real world calling, it's asking you to come back to earth.See, guys and gals, you constant Castleton complainers, you distributors of downtime discord, you negative Nancys with no concerns other than "why is all of this happening to me?" listen here because it concerns you; in the words of Eddie Murphy… ya'll need to have a coke and a smile and shut the f--- up."

Here's why. We go to school surrounded by faculty and staff that actually give a damn. I know my professors by first name, phone number, and I know that I can rely on them to understand my problems and concerns, as long as I address them in a manner expected of a mature college student. Very few professors (none, as a matter of fact, that I've come across in my years here) haven't given me a chance to state my case, and then unequivocally take a minute to understand and reason with me.

Look, we've all got our problems with collegiate life, but if college was supposed to be a cake walk through a fairy park with daffodils and butterflies, what kind of people would we be when we graduated?

Do we really want everything on campus to be perfect? Do we want our every last desire to be catered to? Do we really not want to dig in and try, with everything we've got, for something that means so much?

Do we not want to fight through the bullshit (and sometimes it is there) with a quiet confidence, and self assurance that we are here on OUR dime, and know that we can make a difference at this school if we think there is one to be made?

And do we not want to realize that maybe just maybe… just maybe the problems that we're focusing on are so trivial, and miniscule that we're missing the big picture?

Castleton freaking rocks, because we have the freedom to say what we will without consequence from an authoritative administration and because all of our questions and concerns are weighted and thought about.

We have people here like Deb Choma, Crispin White, and Dave Wolk, people who go out of their way for us students. Safe ride, anyone?

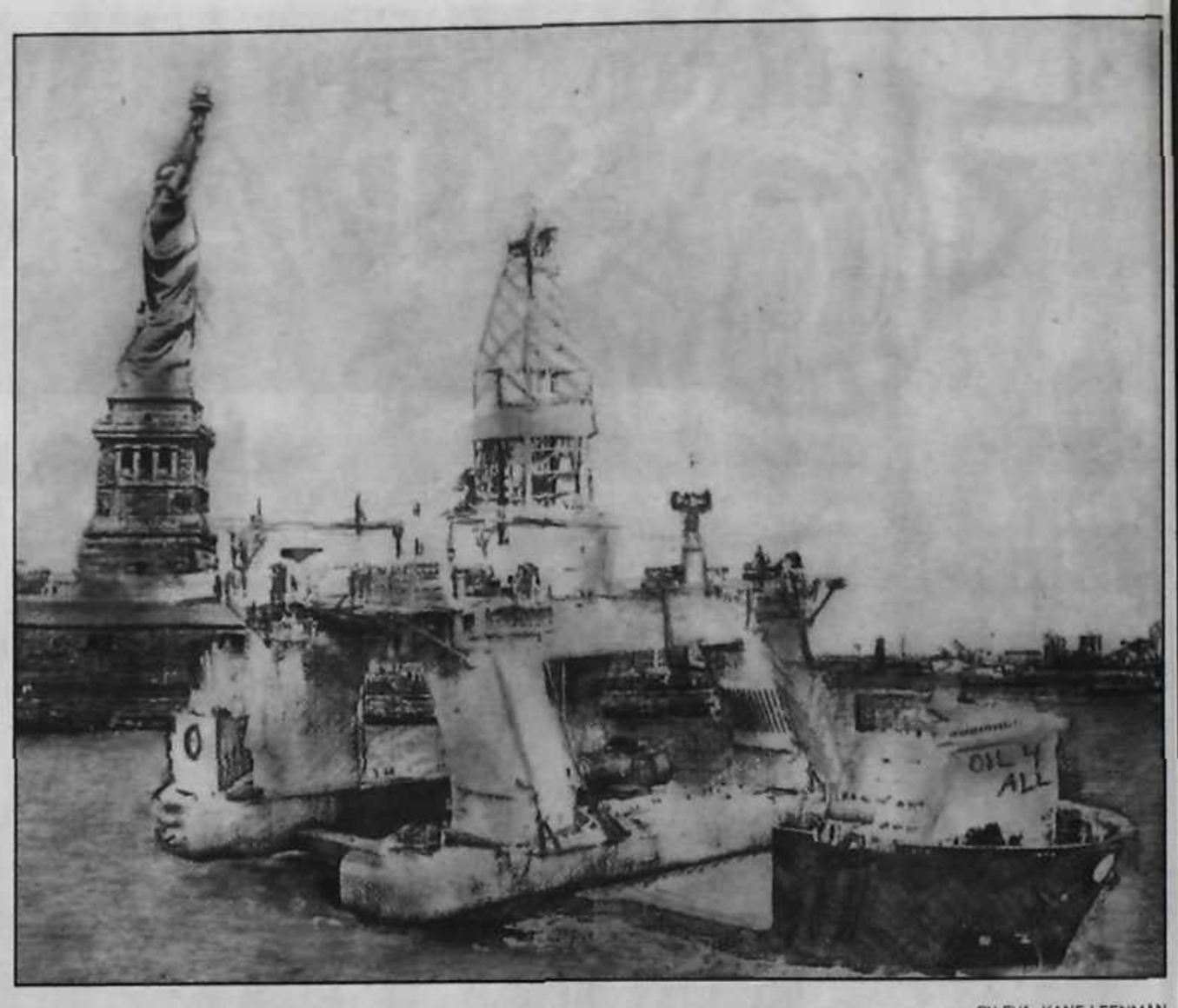
We're paid attention to as a student body, by an administration and faculty that knows we're worth paying attention to. We're respected by our teachers, but that respect isn't free. There aren't free handouts here. CSC doesn't work that way.

You have to earn it. Fight for it. Call me a brown-noser, call me an idealist, tell me I'm just out for the approval of my professors. Just don't call me to complain about your teacher not teaching well, or your suite getting busted, because I don't care.

You make your own choices here, the only person who can make Castleton a great school for you is YOU. The experiences you gain here are in no one's control but yours. And that's a fact.

Love it or hate it, just stop bitching about it.

-- Charles Smith



BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mario Bros. made me smarter?

To the Editor,

Last semester you published an article "American Boys are Short-Changed in School," that dealt with declining school performance by males.

I found this article important, especially with regards to the issue of gender bias in our classrooms. Many ask why there are such discrepancies between the two genders in regards to school performance.

Dean Joe Mark gave many different contributing factors to explain the "demise in male education"- including a lack of positive male role models, the "ways literacy is taught to males and who is teaching them," the reinforcement of stereotypical societal expectations of males to be "tough" and emotionless, the over-diagnosis of such disorders as ADHD, and the high usage by males in the field of interactive media such as computers and video games.

As a video gamer, I was immediately drawn to the last factor. I was not surprised to see video games mentioned, knowing they have been blamed for contributing to failing school grades and even school violence.

However, I would argue that video games are not as much of a contributing factor as many would think in declining male performance at school.

Conflicting perspectives have become increasingly polarized as video games continue to evolve and as consumer demand for better interactive media continue to dominate worldwide entertainment markets.

Are video games "cultural pollution" or is there a possibility that they actually develop skills that are valuable for gamers like myself?

The dominant anti-video game position is that they are wasteful and harmful, sequestering players in a solitary, make-believe world dominated by themes and images of violence, racism, sexism, and gore.

Gamers, who can be as young as 8, are exposed to adult themes and questionable content that may inhibit their cognitive development. Certainly, study after study exposes the darker side of video game messages and communication through popular mainstream titles such as Grand Theft Auto. Prominent social psychologist Philip Zimbardo argues that "eat him, burn him, zap him are the messages rather than bargaining and cooperation.

Most games tend to feed into masculine fantasies of control, power and destruction."

However, is this the only way to understand the video game? Are video games one of the main causes for the failures on students' report cards? The answer is - not exactly.

It is parents' responsibility to monitor their children's exposure to negativity - but not all games deserve this rap, and although gamers may seem addicted to "purposeless" games, they are actually learning.

According to Don Tapscott, gamers develop motor, language and social skills as well as "cognition, intelligence, reasoning, personality, and, through adolescence, the creation of autonomy, a sense of the self and values … in an interactive world." Video games can "provide a unique learning environment ... an interactive complex entity that is accessible at low cost and zero risk," according to Henry Jenkins.

Indeed, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), which advises the government on high priority subjects such as terrorism, has asked for greater investment from "the federal government, private industry and schools to explore the promise of video games … Their complexity … allows them to teach 'higher order thinking skills such as strategic thinking, interpretive analysis, problem solving, plan formation and execution, and adaptation to rapid change" - in addition to increased reading, communication, conflict resolution and mathematical skills.

Many teachers have begun to integrate these technologies within the classroom. Greg Toppo notes that "about 500 elementary schools and middle schools this fall are piloting a game-based reading program."

According to Cliff Edwards, "game designers estimate that at least 10 percent of the classrooms in the nation's 2,500 major school districts will use mainstream titles for learning, up from a handful five years ago.

The adoption rate appears to be accelerating."

The second point I would make is personal. In my experience, gamers are female as well as male - despite a stereotypical focus on the macho hero with common depictions of pathetic, weak, and scantily clad, anatomically impossible female supplementary characters. Both genders are exposed to these obvious, absurd gender stereotypes.

In my own collection of over 30 games, many of which are current mainstream titles, I have only two that are geared more towards a female audience. This leaves female gamers little choice of what type of gender geared game to play - but it does not stop us from playing.

In a world dominated by thousands of different interactive technologies, video games are here to stay no matter what gender you are.

Focusing on the potentially negative effects of video games on males masks other issues which I think really matter such as the lack of time in the classroom to work with individual students with learning problems, the pressures on schools and their staff to raise test scores thanks to NCLB, and a lack of understanding of the value of an experiential environment to avoid setting many students up for poor performance and failure.

Though I do not agree that all video games benefit students, I do find that video games are a strong source of additional learning in and outside the classroom.

For years we have tried to turn the video game systems off and force students to read and write. However, maybe the time has come for us to leave the systems on.

- Courtney O'Keefe [Education & History Major]

Got issues?

To write aletter to the editor e-mail us at Thespartan@Castleton.edu or visit our mesage board at CastletonSpartan.com

Correction

A story in the final issue of The Spartan last semester about graduating seniors incorrectly attributed comments to nursing Professor Anne Smeglin. Smeglin was quoted as saying some students who get all A's here don't do as well in the real world as students who get B's and C's because of shyness or other factors. The comments were made by business professor Paul Albro.

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SEE YOU THERE

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Sex educator bares it all for safe sex

By Kaitlyn Hall
Spartan Staff

As I walked in a took my seat in the Jeffords Aditorium I couldn't help but wonder if the whole presentation was going to turn out to be a joke. A sex educator? We had healthy living classes in high school, what else did we need?

Jay Friedman began talking and my jaw almost dropped open. His opening lines were a story that seemed to be an explicit moment between a male and a female in the bedroom, but there was an explosion of laughter when the story revealed itself to be about a woman and her four month old baby.

This light, fun, joking air would carry on throughout Friedman's J-Spot presentation.

"Sex is fun to talk about," he said after the laughter from his story faded out.

People, he said, have a natural desire to understand, and enjoy sex and one of the easiest ways to gain knowledge is to talk about it.

"Sex is good," he said, earning whistles of appreciation from the audience.

H had the crowd from that point on as he began to explain sexual myths, rules of readiness, and more.

How do you know when you and a partner are truly ready to have sex? He held up three fingers and said the three A's are a good way to tell. A number one: affirm. You should know the name of your partner, he said, saying that means last names too. You should also be able to do it with the lights on, and you should be able to look your partner in the eyes while making love.

A number two: accept. Accept responsibility for your actions, gaining consent, and using protection. The third A is mutual pleasure. Learn about your partner so that the experience is good for both of you.

Friedman continued on to talk about same sex couples versus heterosexual couples and the sanctity of marriage. What are the heterosexual couples so concerned about anyway? Perhaps they are worried that the same sex couples will get "it" right, he said.

Perhaps their relationships will last longer and be more fruitful than the heterosexual marriages of this day and age are. All the talk about same sex marriages linked in nicely as he described the issue of homophobia, one of the three main pressures on men regarding sexuality. And he meant homophobia, not in the sense of being afraid of gay people, but in the sense of being perceived as a gay person, hence the males need to prove their masculinity.

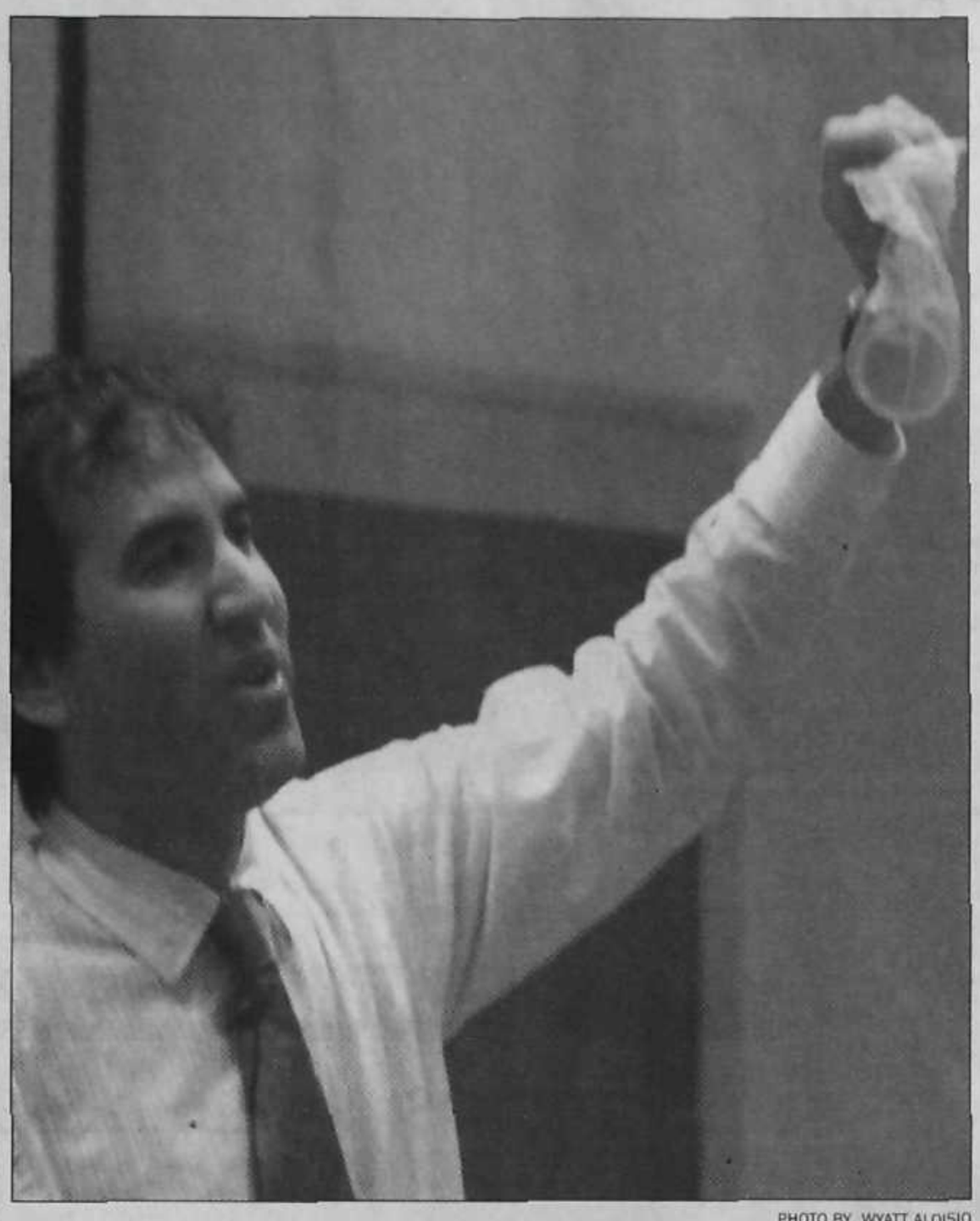


PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Jay Friedman travels across the nation lecturing students on the many ways to have safe and enjoyable sexual relationships.

The next pressure is the myth of "blue balls," he said. Laughter again filled the room as he explained that men will not explode if they did not have a release. If men got blue balls did that mean the women got "pink pelvis?" he asked.

He also talked about "locker room talk," referring to sex as a sport with bases and scoring.

And while talking about sexual arousal, Friedman began jumping around drawing imaginary graphs in the air to demonstrate how men are more easily aroused than women and how their arousal plummets after sex whereas a woman's arousal can plummet or drop slightly and peak again allowing her several orgasms compared to one.

Woody Allen once said, "Masturbation, don't knock it: It's sex with someone I love." Using this quote, he launched into the next part of his program detailing sex in different areas of the world, censorship, and politics. In Europe, especially the north, the rates of STD's, pregnancy's and sexual assault are all lower than the rates in the United States. But why? At a young age European children learn about their bodies, sex, and protection.

In America, he said, our Victorian attitudes towards sex make it hard for us to discuss the topic with other people leading to a lack a good sex education. Sexual censorship here is a bigger deal than the censorship of violence in movies, he said. President Bush wanted to change condom boxes to say dangerous on them and he nominated Susan Oar to the head of family planning even though she looks at birth control as bad, even evil. In southern states slogans like "Pet your dog, not your date," can be found all over the place, he said.

The laughter from his examples of an abstinence-only curriculum died away when he said that it's not the sex itself that gets people sick or pregnant, it's the ignorance that many of us have about our own bodies. Sex is a positive aspect of life. It is healthy and natural. His serious tone was lightened as he smiled and announced that it was time for a movie, but be warned it was a little explicit.

The movie was designed for Scandinavian middle school children and it was fairly graphic, but once viewers got over the initial shock, they seemed to soak up the positive information it included. It would never be allowed to be shown in class rooms in the United States, he said, because of how sexually explicit it was and because of the government's censorship of sexual material.

The J-Spot was a hit. The audience was engaged and seemed willing to absorb the information that Friedman put out there for us.

"Great and provocative," student Yvette Furnia said of the event as the crowd filed out.

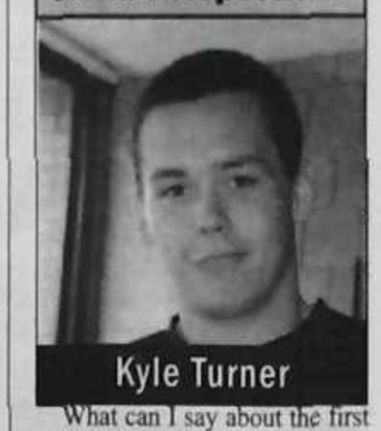
Furnia said she would like to see the U.S. change its policies to be more liberal about sex, like in Scandinavia for example. Following his talk, Friedman said he started his work after going through a rough spot when he and his girlfriend dreaded teen pregnancy.

He travels the college circuit in the U.S. and beyond, reaching from Nova Scotia to Asia.

One of his main points and concerns is that yes, sex does sell in the media, but good information about the responsibilities and protection does not.

For teens here today, finding a good source of information can usually be done through the Internet. His parting words included pitching his Web site Jaytalk.com, which includes his bio and a sample press release.

Fresh Perspectives



Kyle Turner

What can I say about the first semester so far? Hmm…,I can notice that basically all of the freshman class is mingling with one another, instead of forming small clicks of their own.

My experience as a freshman so far has been a lot of fun.

My suite mates are pretty much seven of the best guys to hang out with and the hockey team have been supportive of me doing pre-season training with them.

I would also have to say that, every one of my suitemates have had an influence on me. Making new friends isn't always easy, but people have to realize that everyone is just as nervous as they are and everyone is willing to make friends.

The homework load is not really what I expected, it seems a little bit too late as compared to High School, but that could just be because we have more free time than we are used to.

The food selection at Huden and Fireside is awesome and the unlimited meal plan is pretty much the best thing ever thought of.

Everyone seems to be complaining about the prices of books, well they are right!For four books it cost me $400 which is just over one-hundred gallons of gas. Would you rather have the one-hundred gallons of gas or the four books?

I guess it really all depends on whether or not you want an education. The point is simple, to get an education you need books and to get books you need to pay a crap load of money so we all have to deal with it.

Classes aren't even that bad; Monday, Wednesday and Friday I have class from 9-12 and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5, now who could complain with an amazing schedule like that?

They aren't even that hard if you just do the work and pay attention, but that's always the case when it comes to school.

Nothing really seems that different than living with my parents except for the fact that they aren't around and I have to buy my own food sometimes.

If anyone is homesick even a little bit don't worry, I'm right there with you. I miss playing hockey every night with my old team, hanging out with the people that I care the most about, sleeping in my nice comfortable bed and eating home cooked meals.

I find myself looking at old photos, talking to old friends and even calling home just about every day and that is something I thought I would never do.

We do have more freedoms being here like being able to stay out as late as we want, eat what we want and hang out with who we want. Just ask yourself this one questions, "Do I miss home?

I bet the answer to that question is yes. Enjoy your time here though. These are going to be the four best years of your life!

I'm figuring out what people know and using it to see how I can help make a sustainable effort here.

I spend my days talking to many people, especially women, while improving my language. Moroccan whisky, also known as mint tea, is very important here.

I count how many cups are consumed in a day as a way to gauge success because nothing is accomplished without sharing a cup of tea. I'm just absorbing culture and accepting invitations, which are not easily received.

This fall, during Ramadan, I begin teaching health in my local school. I continue to assess the local water sources in order to improve them. There are so many possibilities for work and many of my projects will depend on U.S. AID grants.

It's exciting to be apart of Moroccan life and see things happening at home through the eyes of my host country nationals.

Maybe this will be the key to making a small difference in lives in a rural Moroccan town.

Ariel the Peace Corps ambassador

2007 graduate adjusts to life in the Muslim country of Morocco.

By Ariel Delaney

Ariel Delaney is a 2007 graduate who joined the Peace Corps and is now living and working in Morocco.

Expect the unexpected. This was a hint of advice from my freshman orientation on college life at Castleton.

This is now my live-by motto when approaching anything new. Then the newness wears off a bit.

The Peace Corps' new motto is patience and flexibility. It's the first thing I learned here, but easier said than done! My days at CSC feel like yesterday and much like a new freshman, I share many of the same fears.

I live in Northern Africa in Southern Morocco on the edge of the Sahara. Adjusting to a dry heat of 135 degrees while living in hydric stress has been tough - and so has the cultural difference.

I've learned to enjoy small victories, like learning to type on an Arabic key board! Morocco is like no place I've ever been.

I now speak a regional oral dialect called Tashelheet. Tashelheet, Tamazight, and Tarifit are the Berber dialects.

The Berber people were the first inhabitants of Morocco and arguably North Africa.

The national language is an Arabic dialect called Darija. I unfortunately don't speak Darija. Moroccans understand all other dialects of Arabic from other Middle Eastern and North African countries, but Darija is only understood by Moroccans.

I live in the Province of Tiznit. I work under the Moroccan Ministry of Health as a Health, Hygiene and Sanitation volunteer. My official title is Health Educator, but the job goes beyond that.

I was originally slated to serve in Mozambique in September 2007, but after a death in the family I postponed. After Mozambique, Morocco was the next readily available country. My job is surely not like the jobs many of my friends stateside have settled into and sometimes I feel as though it's much bigger than me.

My village has a 20 kilometer radius with 2,700 people. The biggest issue is water, because we suffer from desertification.

Morocco is predicted to be in a full on hydric crisis in 2025. Many homes have no bathrooms and no tap water spout. Many wells are hazardous. Another major one is maternal child health. Morocco has the highest infant mortality rate in northern Africa. It's hard for me when I ask a woman how many children she has. All have at least lost one. One woman told me she lost four.

My jaw dropped. The Peace Corps program used to be solely dedicated to this, but changed to reach all people.

I try to reinforce proper health habits. Some of the health topics I cover include washing hands, bathing, covering food, food borne issues, feminine hygiene, HIV/aids education, std education, water conservation/purification, dental hygiene, proper birthing and pregnancy health.

Deaths from diarrhea are on the rise here and the illness is now the number one cause of death in Africa.

The most important thing is to encourage people to go to the health clinic. My village received electricity in 1998 and the first girls started elementary school in 1999. The first class just graduated in May. I encourage all the young girls to go to school although many mothers opt to keep the girls at home. None of the women in my town know to read and write.

A lot of this is hard for me two understand, especially since I was raised in western society. Morocco has a Muslim majority (99 percent) and the role of women here is very different. For example, women in my town do not go to the local health clinic because the nurse, my Moroccan counterpart, is male.

Castleton alumnus Ariel Delaney (back row center) poses with locals in Morocco and a fellow Peace Corps volunteer (far right).

They also don't go to market. They wear a head covering called an adal, which is a white cover that flows past the torso.

Some wear lizar, which is a sheet that is creatively wrapped all around the body. Women and men do everything separate including eating meals and even praying. Addressing certain issues is hard for my nurse, but as a female I can facilitate these sessions were he cannot. I take it as my personal mission to protect the women from preventative illnesses.

But there are other problems blocking our efforts like belief in local healers and sorcerers. Superstitions run high here.

The Berbers where at one point pagans, then converted to Judaism, then Christians. So the mix of Islam with local beliefs can be challenging when addressing health.

The hardest part of being here has been integrating into a conservative society. My Moroccan supervisors told me this region was conservative and I would have to change my appearance a bit.

I wear a scarf and long shirts and skirts. Many may not agree, but I interpret this differently. Out of respect for my town and to be a role model for the young girls, I feel that covering has been a way to introduce myself without being threatening or reinforcing the stereotypes people see of American women on television. The first impression can last and because I'll be here for two years, I wanted to make a good one. I do have to say that living in a Muslim society is much different than reading about it in book or seeing it on television.

It has transformed my perceptions and I encourage people to visit a Muslim country before forming opinions.

Many times I am the first American many Moroccans meet and the cultural exchanges that I partake in are important both ways.

The funniest moment for me had to be when people told be emphatically that Hilary Clinton is Berber and I should vote for the first Berber to go to the White House.

Many people e-mail me news briefs and ask are you safe?

My answer is yes, 100 percent. Safety is a frame of mind. Yes there have been and are terrorist attacks, most recent in 2007 in Casablanca, but Peace Corps Morocco has a great Moroccan staff that specifically deals with safety issues.

Peace Corps Morocco was evacuated in 2003 when the war started, not because Morocco wasn't safe but for the concern of public response. There are protests here about the situation in Middle East often, but they are not much different than protests stateside.

At times I just think of how people may perceive me. A western woman who speaks broken Tashelheet, says hi to men in town, lives alone, dresses weird, and is always telling the kids to wash their hands. Sometimes you just have to see things from the other side to put your role in perspective.

I arrived in March and at this time; I'm still in the integration stage. I just moved into a simple house after living two months with my host family.

A non-trad's view

Susan Hernandez

Avice for my daughter:

I took a couple of classes this summer and finished up six days before my fall term here at Castleton began. During that time I had to get my daughter ready for her first semester as a college freshman. I sent my son off eight years earlier. You would think the advice I gave my daughter would be different than for my son based on gender, but that wasn't the case.

The reason my advice was different was that this time I'm a college student too. I have one last semester here at Castleton before I graduate. I now have had some of the same experiences of a present day college student -- non-traditional for sure -- but still it counts.

I have felt the same frustration that the 18-year-old feels navigating the system for course changes, buying text books, and feeling lonely and lost. I have enjoyed the thrill of acing a test and the disappointment of studying hard and still failing one. So instead of saying "work hard and get good grades," I left that to my husband and gave her some advice that I felt might actually help:

1) You don't have to declare a major yet. Take some courses in the area of study that interest you and see if you like it as much as you think you will.

2) Don't take an 8 a.m. class. It only takes a couple of over-slepts to affect your grade.

3) If you find you are overwhelmed, don't be afraid to drop a course.

4) The first semester is the hardest. Socially you don't have a place yet and it's unnerving because you don't know how you fit into the new community. Relax everyone feels the same uneasiness. Break the semester into pieces just concentrate on getting to the mid-term point, then Thanksgiving and not long after that the semester is over and Christmas is here.

5) Get your books early and ask for the used ones. It saves money and next semester when you know your classes in advance, Half.com will really save you money.

6) As you get toward mid-term, if God forbid you are getting a bad grade, withdraw. You still have to pay for the class, but it won't affect you GPA.

7) Drinking. Don't. Yah right! But if you choose to drink, remember this. You do not know this new group of people. You need time to get to know who is trustworthy and who is not. Take a while to get to know the people around you before you put yourself in a less than in-control situation.

8) When you go to a party, remember roofies dissolve in liquid - not just alcohol. So take you covered coffee mug, it is much harder to slip something into a drink that has to have the cover removed. (That does not mean that you still don't have to keep an eye on it)

9) Sex! What can I say here that I have not said already? If you choose to become involved in a sexual relationship BE SAFE - USE CONDOMS. If you need some, go to health services they hand them out no questions. P.S. I'll feel better if he's really cute with a bright future.

10) Have fun and make the most of the adventure.

I know that she has at least taken some of my advice because she called to say that she had her schedule and had been to the book store and all but one book was used.

And oh, there may be a few envious students who read this when I tell you her first Monday morning class is at 12 noon. Hell! I'm envious.

One last piece of advice unless you absolutely have to. DO NOT TAKE SUMMER CLASSES. IT SUCKS.

Check out the message boards and post your replies at:
castletonspartan.com

Students say Huden food improving!

By Laura Olson

Laxatives in the food. Prison-grade meat. A staff that doesn't care.

These rumors about Huden Dining Hall have perpetuated a love-hate-mostly-hate relationship between students and their meal plans for years.

Needless to say, word of Huden's reputation gave the new Director of Food Services, Michael Williams, a lot to chew on.

Williams, who described himself as having "a calling for food services," is determined to change the culture of dining on the Castleton campus.

"I had heard that the students were unhappy and knew that it was my job to make them happy," said Williams.

The claims that Castleton students make about the dining at Huden often surpass basic fixes such as more menu options and longer hours of operation, but instead focus more on what the food does to their bodies.

"I like the taste of the food for the most part, but the problem is it makes me really ill," said junior Sarah Parker. "If the dining hall isn't going to accommodate all health and dietary needs, then we shouldn't be forced to have a meal plan."

Williams once again hopes to squelch that notion by proving to the Castleton community that great strides will be made in satisfying students' needs.

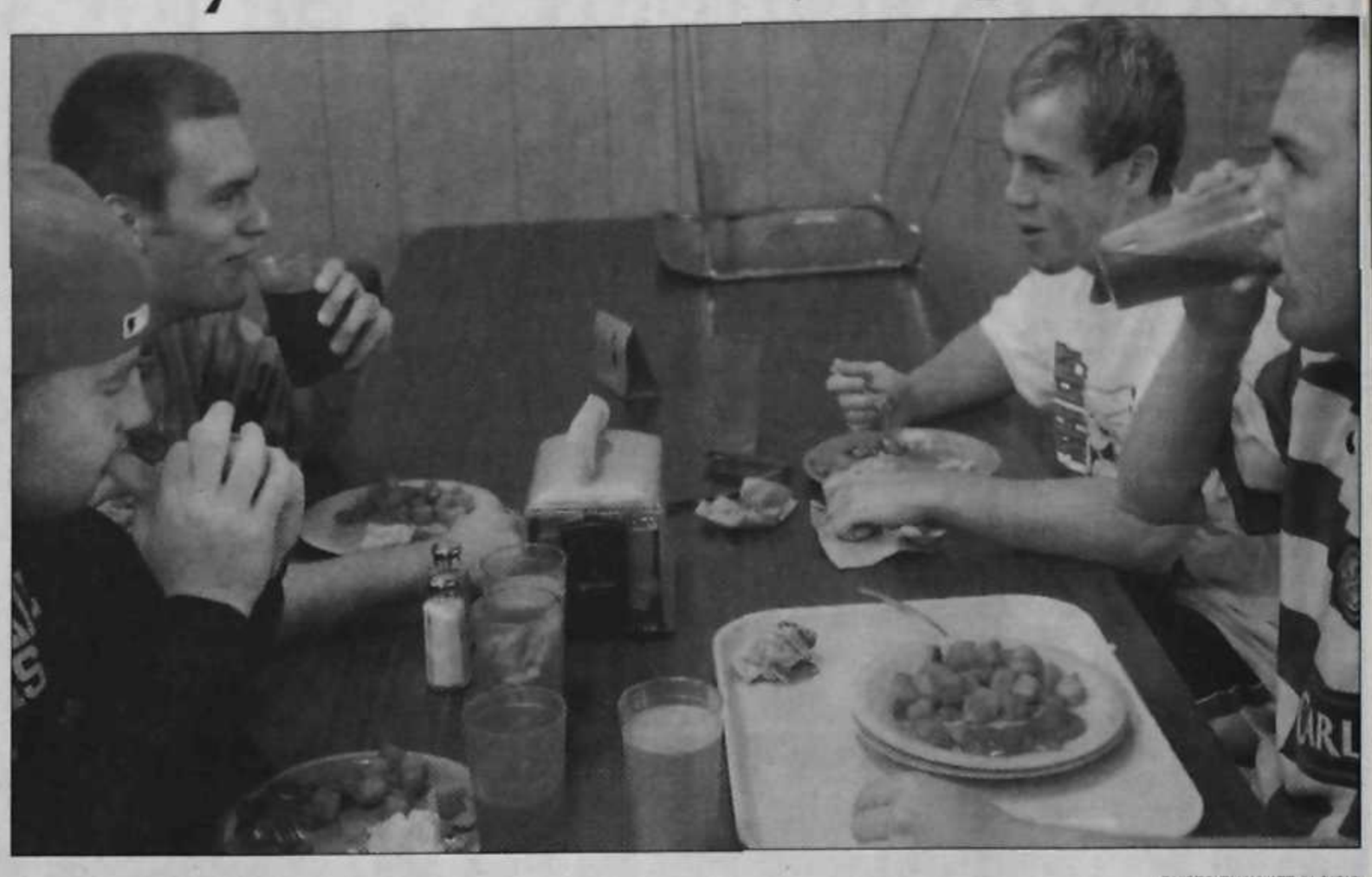


PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Students enjoy a hearty breakfast at Huden

"One of the first things I did was search for the right executive chef, which led me to Chef Troy (Peabody).

He has an extensive culinary background and the same vision I do, which is to provide home-cooked food with a restaurant ambiance," said Williams. "Troy goes out of his way for special requests, which is why we rely on the students to come forward with any dietary needs they require."

According to a poll of 50 returning Castleton students, most of them concur that Williams' initiative to make Huden better is working.

When asked "Compared to last year, is the food at Huden better, worse, or about the same?" An overwhelming 36 students said better, 14 said the same, and 0 said worse.

One of the 36 students who have seen an improvement is sophomore Greg LaMoy, who attributes the success thus far to the new staff.

"I think it's better because of the new chef," said LaMoy. "He seems to actually care about what people want."

Senior Myles Mickle echoes the sentiment, and feels that fresh ideas have helped keep the menu exciting.

"I think the food is the same quality as last year, but the cooking staff seems to be using more creativity with ingredients. The other day they made shepherd's pie for dinner from the leftover pulled pork from lunch, and it was awesome!" said Mickle.

Some students like sophomore Kyle Kelly, however, still remain skeptical.

"If and when I go to Huden, I usually only eat pizza because it's the safest," she said. "I really only go for the social aspect."

Williams emphasized that the social aspect that Kelly mentioned is just as important to him as the quality of the food.

"Castleton hired me at the very end of last year, when you guys only had about two weeks left. But every day for those two weeks I was in the dining hall just observing. I saw the same students come in at the same times, sit at the same places with the same people; it was incredible," said Williams. "I want Huden this year to be even more of a social hub and we're taking a lot of steps to making that happen."

Some of those steps include getting rid of the Aramark uniforms and changing them to Castleton colors and logos, inviting any campus-sponsored clubs and departments to display projects, advertisements, and banners for the community to see, and overall maintaining a fusion of home-away-from-home and school spirit.

"I was interested in Castleton specifically when looking for a job in food services, because I've seen it evolve and grow," said Williams. "I'm incredibly excited about becoming part of the CSC culture."

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

An example of some of the breakfast offerings at Huden

Castleton comic chronicles student life

By Annie Hartman
Spartan Staff

Who knew Castleton had its very own Mort Walker in the Student Center?

Judith Carruthers, Castleton's director of career development, has been a professional cartoon artist since she was 14 years old. When she decided faculty and staff needed a better way to communicate with incoming freshman, Carruthers set her pen to paper and produced the first annual illustrated student comic handbook.

"We have a lot of extraverted intuitivists," Carruthers said. "I knew pictures were the way to go."

Titled "How to Have a Good Time at College," the comic book is a compilation of common sense tips and CSC expectations.

Carruthers illustrated all of the cartoons herself with the exception of a few photographs.

Photos, she said, didn't allow students to see themselves as the character and therefore made it hard to relate. Cartoons allowed students to see themselves in those pictures and situations.

"It was cool to hear 'Hey! That kind of looks like you!'" she said, referring to student reactions when they received the comic books at orientation a few weeks ago.

Carruthers also believes that this is an easier way for students to understand college lingo -- a completely different language from what is used in high school.

"Pictures are received information," she said. "You don't need to understand a language to understand a picture."

This point is proven on the very first page. The opening illustration shows a student and faculty member talking about various college-related terms like majors, minors, concentrations, writing-intensive courses, and work-study.

These terms are commonly used everyday in a college environment among staff and returning students, but often sound foreign to incoming freshmen.

Student Association members were involved in helping plan the book and also fed Carruthers ideas of what should go into the book. Students that were around campus this past summer were also consulted and asked for input and feedback.

"Any conversations that take place in the comic are directly from students," said Carruthers. "If I put my words in, it doesn't ring true. We try to get the students words in as much as possible."

Carruthers still searching for more input. "The Outhouse Gazette" is maintaining the comic book and updating it with regular student issues, questions, and dilemmas that are then turned to animation.

While the book is set to provide valuable CSC info to incoming and even returning students, it could also put cash in a one student's pocket.

The Student Association is running a contest to color the handbook, which is currently illustrated in black and white. The books can be attained online through the Castleton website or outside the Student Association office in the Campus Center.

All forty-one pages can be colored individually or by a group. The deadline is October 15th and the winner will receive $100 and their colored copy will be displayed on the school's website.

Carruthers is already planning for next year's edition of the handbook, as well as another completely separate comic book.

"I would like to do one maybe for sophomores to hear what they're going through in their second year," she said.

Carruthers encourages student feedback and ideas and happily accepts e-mails, phone calls, and even visits in her office in the Student Center.

"I want people to hear me when I draw," she said.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JUDITH CURRUTHERS

A page from a comic guide for Castleton students.

Don't dream it be it

Dream

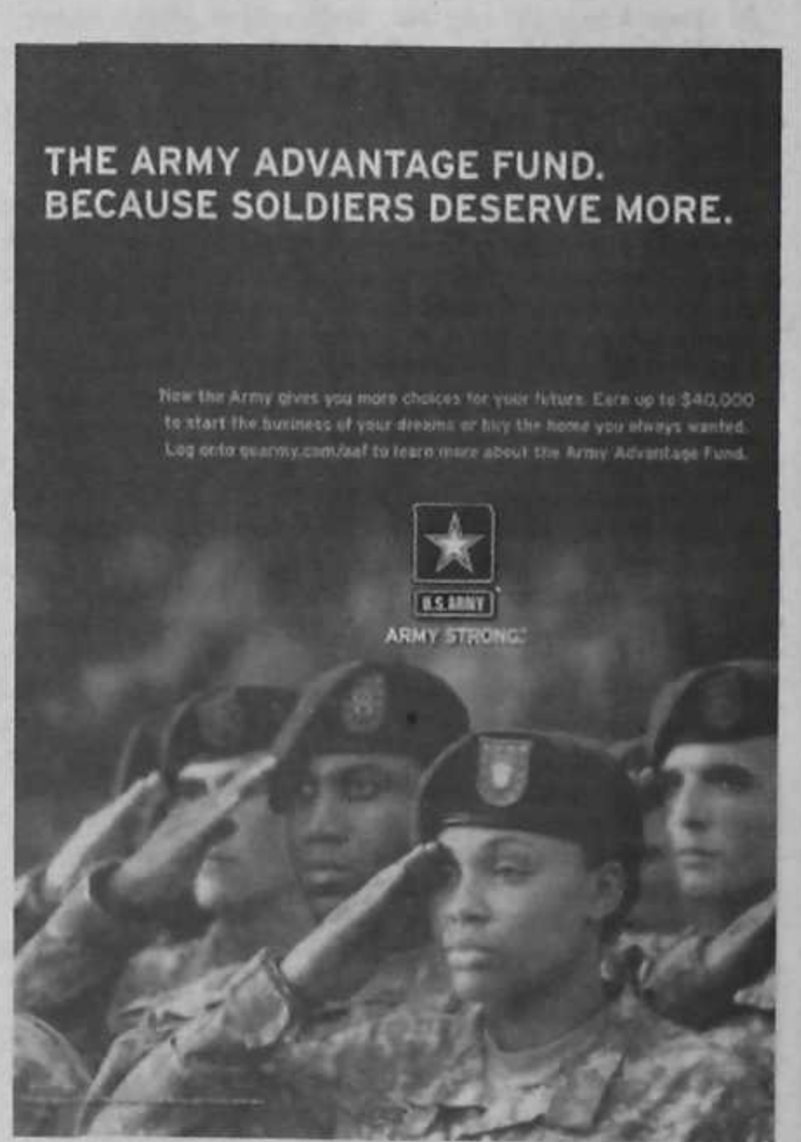
From Page 6

eled with the convener. But soon, Women's Studies will have a physical home. In Fall 2009 we'll move into an office and develop a resource center, where all who are working for gender equity and against gender-based violence on our campus and in the broader community can meet, research, and discuss issues of importance to all of us, and strategize for change. Join us!

Women's Studies is for everyone who is concerned about inequalities in our society, everyone who cares about social, political and economic justice. We offer a minor in Women's Studies – six courses in an interdisciplinary field that helps us to understand gender power; how gender relates to race, class and other forces that divide us; what it means to be a woman or a man in the world - why gender matters. Whatever your major and field of interest, not only will you educate yourself about your own society, but employers are also impressed with a degree that includes women's studies.

Credit gained in a WMS course can also count towards your major, and many Women's Studies courses fulfill general education requirements. For this year, we're located in my office in Leavenworth Hall 250. Drop by, and check out our Web page: http://www.castleton.edu/women-studies/index.htm - and look out for a Women's Studies library display our students are developing.

What can we take from that workshop one wintry day in a windswept corner of Cape Town, six years ago? Perhaps The Rocky Horror Picture Show said it best: Don't dream it, be it!


THE ARMY ADVANTAGE FUND.
BECAUSE SOLDIERS DESERVE MORE.
Now the Army gives you more choices for your future. Earn up to $40,000 to start the business of your dreams or buy the home you always wanted. Log on to goarmy.com/aaf to learn more about the Army Advantage Fund.
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I'm all in

Poker phenomenon hits Castleton State College

By Chuck Sm ith
Spartan Staff

It's 9 p.m. on a Wednesday and six students are crowded around a round table, cards in hand, waiting for their chance to pull in the cash.

This poker game is a weekly event for this group, and crowded tables just like it happen every night all over the Castleton area.

The poker phenomenon has taken Castleton by storm. Compared to the pros, the games here are miniscule and the pots almost worthless. But the money won here, usually $40 to $60 depending on the number of players, is a great help to any college student's wallet.

"It's nice to win, but it's also fun to play," says one of the players. "The competition is fun like any game … The money is nice though."

Indeed there is a great deal of competition in the game they play, Texas Hold 'em, but few would even bother playing if there wasn't some cash to win.

The game continues throughout the night, the chip stacks move from one player to another and eventually some drop out - they're out of chips. The final two at the table fight back and forth for a while and the other players have stopped paying attention.

They're in the adjacent room watching TV, just waiting for this game to end so another can begin.

This night, the first game ends too late, at about 1 a.m., and the players go home. The winner took home just $30, but it was a fun night for everyone. Sometimes the games go much later,

"Hell we've seen the sun come up before," one player recalls. "That's especially tough when there's class three hours after that."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY Y EVA KANE LEENMAN

Games going on this late seem to be of no concern to the players, but Joy Mitchell of the Vermont Council on Problem Gambling, thinks games like this are a serious problem.

"Aside from the money problems that gambling causes, these games are a huge distraction to students," said Mitchell. In a phone interview, she shared horror stories of students getting in to deep to the gambling world.

"One person lost a four year scholarship because they were so preoccupied with playing poker that they failed out," she said.

Mitchell runs the problem gambling 24-hour helpline, so she's heard hundreds of stories just like that one.

"Another student decided they could make a better living playing poker than with a degree … he's since dropped out of school and is in a significant amount of debt," she said.

"Nationwide a lot of people are getting in trouble. Mostly it's just preoccupation, they're either dropping out, or flunking out," said Mitchell.

The Castleton campus though doesn't seem to be as heavily afflicted with the gambling epidemic. Money is won and lost, but not to a great degree.

"Hell I won $120 last week, but I've never seen anyone pull in more than that, and a pot that big doesn't happen very often," one of the student gamblers said.

Dennis Proulx, head of residence life on campus, spoke without a great sense of concern about the poker games.

"It certainly hasn't surfaced to me as a problem we need to crack down on," said Proulx.

He went on to say that the kinds of problems that Mitchell had told about haven't occurred here at Castleton, and that poker games are not something that he is going to try and stop if they're in the residence halls.

> *". . .they were so preoccupied with playing poker that they failed out."*
> *Joy Mitchell*

"If I know of a gambling operation going on then yes, we'll do something about. When it comes to our attention, we'll enforce the rules," said Proulx. But, he said, nothing really comes to their attention on campus, because poker has yet to cause a major problem.

"As an emerging adult, you have choices to make, it's their choice," said Proulx. "There are thresholds students cross that we take very seriously; violence, firearms, fires, drug abuse … I'm not sure that gambling here is one of them.

"We don't have a 0 tolerance rule for gambling and I don't want one. I think someone can gamble in our halls and still live within the spirit of how we encourage them to act as an adult."

Responsibility, it seems, is something that Proulx is confident that the students at Castleton have plenty of, and for good reason -- they're not getting themselves into too trouble.

"Have I ever lost a lot of money? No. We never play for a lot of money because we're all friends here and we all know that we don't have a lot of money to play for. It's just fun to play and to win a couple bucks," a player said. "Sure there are big pots, but that's because we'll have 10, 11, 12 people playing. If everyone at a ten person table throws in 10 bucks, well that's $100 to the winner. No one's losing much."

Maxin' Chillaxin'

Terry Badman

Aside from the additional education, college offers blossoming adults a chance to really test their skills at managing stress levels.

I'm sure some of you freshman, and I'm speaking from experience here, are actually quite surprised to discover how much free time you have now.

I credit my once unmatched Halo pwning-pistol-skill and my appreciation for a sturdy glass of scotch to those first few years college, spending many a night simply staring at the concrete walls of Adams Hall with episodes of Family Guy running for all eternity on the suite TV.

I'm also sure a lot of you also came into college and made the respectable – but ultimately stupid – decision to find a job and start working before you've even adjusted to the college routine of things.But there will always be time to work.

College is your last shot at achieving the reality of randomness before the routine of life – sleep, work, pay, sleep, repeat – takes over your very existence.

For those reasons, which you will begin to understand morefully as the wheels of higher education move you deceptively steadily towards your fate, that you will — sooner than you think – find yourself stretched and stressed to the breaking point.

This column serves as a great, big, middle finger salute to the faces of everything in life that stresses you out.

I can already hear some of you. "But wait, guy! I already know how to chill my ass out. I've got my own little routine that always works."

You know what? That's great. Way to stay ahead of the curve. Go you. You're awesome. Someone should probably get you a medal or something.

But you see, your little "routine" is exactly that – a routine.

Unless you're an easily amused Paris Hilton-type person – finding comfort in shiny pretty things or Abercrombie and Fitch storefronts — than I'm willing to bet that you're routine will eventually become as staler than Dane Cook's standup.

But the rest of us need a little shakeup once in a while.

So for the first issue of Maxin' Chillaxin' – I know, it's the pimpest column name ever and you're mad jealous your parents didn't give it to you – here's a quick and effective way to kick those college stresses down a notch.

Have you actually looked at our campus?

It's one of those things you take completely for granted when you have it, but as soon as it's gone, you miss it like Tom Cruise misses the eighties.

Those of you – and there's like 1,700 I think – that live on campus really need to get out and breathe it in once in a while. I don't mean on your regular morning death marches to classes when you're half awake, buzzed, and are slobbering down a Monster Energy drink or coffee.

I mean when you've got nothing better to do. Put down the Guitar Hero, put on your sneaks or Crocs and take a walk around campus.

How many of you have actually sat on the park bench hidden off a rustic beaten path behind the overflow parking lot and just shot the shit with someone?

Or stopped to actually look at what sort of veggies are growing in the garden next to the greenhouse? Or strolled down to the Village Store on a cool end-of-summer night for a local-made brownie and a Joe's Iced Tea?

Tourists come to Vermont each year and pay top dollar just to sit and stare at the trees for Chrissake!

You need some fresh air. Get up and out already.

The Xbox and your collector's edition copy of "The Boondock Saints" will still be there when you get back.

I'm not so sure about the beer in your fridge, though.

ENTERTAINMENT IN REVIEW

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Here's a movie almost any college student could relate too. Is it because it's about college? No. Studying hard, getting good grades? Absolutely not.

It's about getting high.

But not like Cheech and Chong, more like if Jason Statham ("Death Race") was in a stoner movie. These stoners were lighting up and shooting up, not with needles but with guns. What if Michael Mann made a stoner movie? This is it, sort of.

"Pineapple Express," much to my disappointment, has nothing to do with the migration patterns of pineapples nor is it about a train called Pineapple Express. This movie is about a stoner, Dale Denton and his stoned drug dealer, Saul Silver, getting chased by an evil drug lord and his goons because Silver witnessed a murder. While this is happening, the two are always high or getting high. And of course, the movie was completely realistic. Everything made sense -- if you were high.

The creative minds that brought you "Superbad" have done it again with "Pineapple Express." The film might not have as memorable lines as "Superbad," but it is definitely quite creative. Combining a stoner movie and an action movie provides a fresh look at an old topic.

This is a far better approach than what some of the other movies are taking such as the movie, "College," which is obviously a complete rip-off of "Animal House" and every other movie about college that came before it.

Seth Rogan and Evan Goldberg could have made a movie about two guys getting stoned as a cheap cash-in, but they didn't. They actually used their imagination and made a refreshing comedy. I've never really been too big of a fan of stoner movies since I never really understood the point of them, but PE struck home with me.

Not that I could relate to it, but it reached out and tickled my funny bone. This movie was funny because it was supposed to be funny, not because it was so bad it was funny, which lately I've seen a lot ("Death Race").

The story did follow the Hollywood formula story (they got a problem, they start to solve, not sure if they can anymore, regain hope, big climatic scene, end of movie) but it saved it's self with it's ending. I won't say what happens but it's perfect.

I can't wait for more work by Seth and Evan and I hope it'll be just as good or maybe even better. Don't go see "College" or "House Bunny." Those movies are boring and stale. You can tell just by watching the trailer that they are stale, cheap, reruns but with different actors. If you want to watch a movie about going to college go back to the classics and watch "Animal House."

Not only was PE funny but it also teaches you something about what it means to be a good friend and don't abuse drugs. They never said don't use drugs just don't abuse them. So in a way this movie is comedy, action, stoner and educational. You can learn about friendship, inner city crime, and the drug industry.

The really funny thing is, after the movie I was pretty hungry.

SAGE FRANCIS

By Shelby LaCroix
Spartan staff

Sage Francis never ceases to amaze. With the release of his newest, and arguably his most powerful album to date, he hits the notes dead on.

He's real. He's where it's at. He's a legit artist with street cred and life experience. 'Human the Death Dance,' released in May 2007, is raw. It's sarcastic and vengeful with the inflection of a certain vulnerability.

He's very aware of our society's circumstance and how he fits into all of it. He's blunt and purposeful in every word. He's a poet with a steel fist, and an expert lyricist.

"Underground for Dummies," track two, proves to be the cream of one impressive crop. With everlasting clarity, it's like seeing the world through Sage's eyes. He invites you into his mind of twisted lines. It's purely euphoric and he doesn't hold back. It's the infallible accompaniment to a hot shower in the a.m.

'Human the Death Dance' is executed brilliantly. The beats and instrumentals peak fiercely. The build-up is an orgasm of sound, leaving the sweet taste of victory in your mouth. His lyrics hit hard, leaving you wanting more like: I've fallen head first into the pit of my stomach, taught to trust my gut, got no trust in the gutless."

'Human the Death Dance' is lined with gold. A journey of understanding. Sage finds himself in his words, and in listening to this album it's made clear.

With each line, you think, "he can't possibly one-up himself this time" and he does. Sage Francis shatters the mold with his greatest to date, earning the respect he's always deserved.

More changes on horizon for CSC campus

Changes
From Page 1

My money's going somewhere, right?

But if all these campus renovations are already paid for, why is there an additional charge of $300 on each student's billing statement every semester?

The answer: the gym, the Campus Center, and the new athletic field.

These three projects make up the final phase of Castleton's master plan, appropriately named the Castleton Student Initiative (CSI), and funded by additional charge of $300 each full-time Castleton student each semester.

Created as a means to make Castleton more competitive with other schools in the region, the CSI includes massive renovations to the Glenbrook gymnasium and the Campus Center, as well as the construction of a new multi-purpose athletic field and stadium that will host a number of sports – including football.

It was the largest Act 250 permit and the biggest project of it's kind approved in the state of Vermont so far this year.

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

Students walk the new slate path

And while students, particularly upperclassmen, have complained of being charged an additional fee for something they'd never be around long enough to see, President Wolk assures them that they are in fact getting quite the deal.

"Our fee is the lowest of our entire competition," he said. "And it is set up as part of the financial aide package."

"We also tried to sync up construction with the addition of the charges, which not every school does," he said.

Wolk pointed out that the University of Vermont began charging students a similar fee of $1200 – four years before construction on any projects officially began.

Coming along nicely

Glenbrook gymnasium is currently in the midst a heavy dose of renovation, the first of the three primary CSI projects.

"We knew we couldn't build a new gym," Castleton President Dave Wolk said. "But we knew it could be renovated."

Students hoping to gain access to gym may have noticed a bright orange barrier sectioning off the area outside the front lobby, blocking access through the front door entrance.

Construction crews have been taking apart the Glenbrook gym piece-by-piece since classes ended last spring. The every inch of the wooden floor where Castleton Spartans regularly host their basketball games has been removed.

But that's not to say the wood is going to waste.

"In the interest of recycling, you're going to see pieces of the (gym) floor all around campus," Wolk said

Sections of the 50 year-old historic flooring will be recycled and used as a number of number of things, including as a backdrop for the new Castleton sign on the wall of the renovated gymnasium, window finishes, and will even as memorial plaques for Castleton alum donors.

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE

President Dave Wolk and Dean of Administration Bill Allen explain the changes to the gym as worker s recycle wood from the old floor to be used as a backdrop.

The gym construction is currently on schedule and will be ready for use in time for the first basketball game of the season in November. But that's not to say everything in Glenbrook will be finished in time for the start of the season.

"There'll be some temporary structures in the front of the building — a temporary entrance — when the games start," Castleton Dean of Administration Bill Allen said, referring to the Glenbrook lobby renovations.

Some students were hoping things would be finished sooner.

"I thought we were promised at orientation that this would all be done by now," Castleton student Alison Clark said. "I still see lots of plywood."

Other students were a bit more receptive to the change.

"It's construction," Chuck Smith added." Of course there will be set-backs. But I think they're making great progress."

In the weeks and months ahead

The three primary projects of the CSI should be completed by August 2009. Other projects set for completion by this time next year include an addition to Leavenworth Hall – which will host the new television studio — and Castleton's own skateboard park.

After that, Wolk says, there are plans for the expansion of another Castleton staple – Huden Dining Hall.

And while many students may have grown tired of seeing constant construction during their stint at Castleton, changes to campus have helped reestablish Castleton as a college on the rise, as well as reenergize the paychecks of the Vermont community.

"Most of the workers doing the construction here are Vermonters," Wolk said. "The money gets funneled back into the local economy."

Professor column

Trish van der Spuy

Trish van der Spuy, Assista Professor of African and Worl History, Convener of Women Studies

Six years ago, a chapter close in my life. Shortly after March 2 the South African national holida that remembers the Sharpevill Massacre of 1960, when aparthei police shot and killed more than 6 unarmed protesters in the back, submitted my PhD dissertation t the University of Cape Towr South Africa.

At that time I was coordinatin and teaching the undergraduat program in Women's and Gende Studies at the University of th Western Cape, situated on th bleak, sand-swept periphery o Cape Town. This University ha been built under apartheid as a col lege for human beings classifie 'Coloured.'

This was the 'catch-all' categor created for those who were no arbitrarily classified 'White, 'Bantu,' or 'Asiatic' by petty bureaucrats who used tests like the 'pencil-in-the-hair' test or the 'spitting' test to place people into racia categories. This would then deter mine where you could live an work, what kind of education an health care you could look forwar to, whether you might expect to be imprisoned or executed as a child whether you might be sterilize without your knowledge, or paid t have children – in short, the quality (and length) of your entire life.

Many members of the first democratic government of post-apartheid South Africa had studied at this under-resourced "bush college." UWC has a proud history of struggle against discrimination, and I was privileged to work there, meeting in the evenings with working students who spoke English as a third or fourth language. Many were single parents, many lived in homes without electricity and would study by the light of a paraffin lamp. Today some students have access to Internet cafes, where high prices are paid for the privileges we take for granted in this country.

So there I was, teaching in the Women's and Gender Studies Department at UWC, in a one-year-leave-replacement position. I was not looking forward to the end of the year. Despite my newly minted PhD, I had few prospects as a university professor. In South Africa there are few universities. There are even fewer job openings. Quite rightly, many universities focus on educating the post-apartheid generations to take their places in faculty positions – positions denied their parents and grandparents under apartheid.

While I was working at UWC, Professor Suzanna Rose, from Florida International University, held a professional development workshop for women workers (we did not distinguish between faculty and staff – we were all workers). On the last day of the workshop, she asked us to decide (not hope or dream, but decide) where we would be in five years. Despite all signs to the contrary, I claimed a place for myself in a Women's and Gender Studies Program. That was where I would be in five years. At the time, I had a dog named Sizwe, a rented room in a house in the shadow of Table Mountain, Cape Town, a community of friends and no job prospects.

After my year at UWC, I hoped to cobble together enough work to get by – like other academics I knew — thinking I might find work leading American tourists on "historical" tours. And yet here I was claiming a home in a Women's and Gender Studies program – within five years. We all laughed at the absurdity of that idea – except Professor Rose, who nodded.

Five years later, I was the convener of the Women's Studies Program at Castleton State College, in a town I'd never heard of, in a country I'd never dreamed of visiting (too materialistic, too many guns!). And now, the Women's Studies program is an integral part of the exciting new transformations at our college. If you've ever wondered where Women's Studies is located, you're not alone. The program has trav-

Please see **DREAM,** *PAGE 4*

Candidates stances differ

Election
From Page 1

points the candidates have talked about.

Education

According to his Web site, to make college more affordable Obama plans on creating a tax credit that will make "the first $4,000 of a college education completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students."

He also plans on simplifying the application process and creating a community college partnership program. He wants to "help schools determine what skills and technical education are needed to help local industry; expand new degrees for emerging fields and reward schools that graduate more students."

McCain hopes to create a student loan continuity plan for college students.

Women

Many topics were talked about involving women and their bodies including stem cell research, abortion, domestic violence and equal pay. As for stem cell research, Obama is for it where as McCain is not, including using human cells developed in animals.

The candidates also differ on whether or not abortion should be legal, with Obama believing it should and McCain saying it shouldn't. Obama also co-sponsored the Prevention First Act that helps prevent unwanted pregnancies.

McCain did not seem to mention domestic violence or equal pay, however Obama did. He co-sponsored a bill that helps combat domestic violence and he also plans on getting equal pay for women.

Economy

McCain's plan is to cut back on the price of gas and food. He wants to "institute a summer gas tax holiday which would suspend the 18.4 cent federal gas tax and the 24.4 cent diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day." He also plans on rolling back corn-based ethanol mandates, which he feels are the cause of the rising food cost.

Obama plans on raising minimum wage each year he is in office, creating five million green jobs and providing tax cuts for the middle class. He also wants to end tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas and reward the companies that support American workers.

Energy Resources

When it comes to energy resources, both candidates seemed interested in becoming less dependent on foreign oil. Obama wants to see the use of hybrid cars grow, provide short-term relief for families who can't swing the high price of gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and get more electricity from renewable resources.

McCain also wants to use renewable resources, and along with that use nuclear power, coal and he wants to start drilling for oil in the United States.

Iraq

When it comes to Iraq, McCain has no intention of pulling out any time soon. He says it is "strategically and morally essential for the United States to support the government of Iraq to become capable of governing itself and safeguarding its people." He doesn't want to pull out before that has happened and before Al Qaeda is defeated.

Obama wants to end the war and have a "responsible and phased removal of our troops" He hopes to have one to two brigades a month be removed and he feels it would take until 2010. To ensure long-term stability, Obama plans on leaving what he calls a residual force, that won't be permanent, that will "conduct counter-terrorism missions against Al Qaeda and continue to train and support Iraqi security forces."

Delorenzo named outstanding alum

Message
From Page 1

as the Got Consent? Campaign.

Wolk noted that the campus is benefiting from CHANGE's efforts.He also talked about how there are so many clubs and activities on campus and ways for students to leave a positive impression on people and the community.

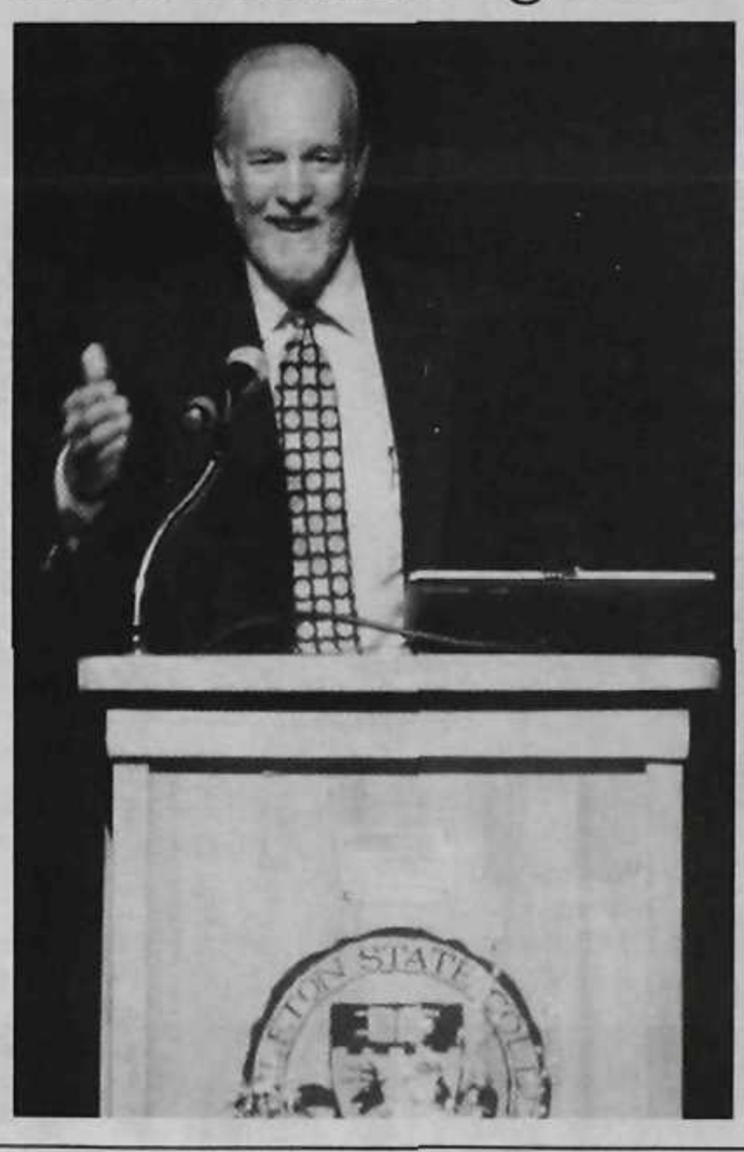
"No one can be bored here," he said.

Getting more involved now helps students prepare for when they will leave college and often have no choice but to get involved. Although convocation is primarily thought of as a welcome to the new semester, this year's came with a powerful message to get involved.

Asked about the event seconds after it ended, freshman Becky Dorman talked about how much she had enjoyed both the instrumental and vocal music by student performers.

She also mentioned the transformation of the college

"It is interesting to see what the college is going through."



SOUNDING OFF

all your SOUNDINGS information

Have something to say about a Soundings event?Please contact a Soundings instructor to share your thoughts.

EVENT COUNTDOWN

13 LEFT

IN ONE SPOT

Coming Events:

Sept. 18-20, 8:00 pm, Sept. 21, 2:00 pm, FAC Casella Theater—Philadelphia, Here I Come! Castleton Theatre Department's first play of the year is about a young man struggling with himself and the decisions people face as they shape their futures. In this case, however, the "self" has a voice in the play and the audience gets to hear both sides of the main character's internal debates on his relationship with his father and his lost love.

Quotable lines

Minnesota Moon Question—*With what aspect of the play did you most identify?*

"The aspect of the play that I would most identify myself with is difficulty accepting changes. With all of the new changes in my life, I associated myself with the character Larry. He also was watching things change very quickly and had some difficulty dealing with the changes." — Michael Matriccino

". . . Alan. I identified with him most because of his personality, his feelings, his interests, and his worries of college. . . . Like Alan, I'm very interested in the arts, with the exception that I play music instead of theater. I also understand his confusion over choice of major, and feeling lost in doing so." — Shelby Fillmore

Woods Tea Company Question—*What is traditional music to you?*

"Traditional music to me is old style folk music about spending time with family/friends while singing or playing old instruments like banjos or mandolins. It has a comforting style of melodic lines and harmonies that are reminiscent of old country. I also think that traditional music makes the audience feel involved and makes the audience enjoy themselves." — Kat Eichler

THERE'S MORE ON THE WEB!

CHECK OUT:

WWW.CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question

What's the most irratating thing about being back at school so far?

JOSH MANLEY

There hasn't been enough work towards developing the skate park.

Mike DelDotto

Not being able to get assigned a compatible roommate. They shove them in your room.. smoker or not.

Ryan Beddie

Having to re-take classes

KELLY STONE

Friggen homework.

SUZY KATCHMAR

That the faculty and administration don't do enough to include commuters in on campus activities. The parking's horrible too.

Students dive headfirst into school year

PHOTOS BY WYATT ALDISIO

Sophomore Justin Garritt takes a dive down the Ellis slip 'n slide last Thursday. Bottom left: Two students take advantage of the sunshine and practice their guitars. Bottom Right: Ellis residents enjoy some home-grilled burgers.

Nice to meet:

Jimena Caratti

Jimena Caratti is here from Mendoza Argentina for a year with the FulBright program. She teaches two Spanish 1 classes and is involved in many of the Spanish departments activities, including teaching the Tango! She also helps students who are struggling with Spanish. She is outgoing and good natured and she loves to teach.

By Allison Clark

Why did you chose to come to Castleton?
"I filled out a profile and the college chose me."

What's the biggest difference between Mendoza and Castleton?
Mendoza is a city with 2 million people, there are many things to do at night and places to visit. Castleton is picturesque, but small. It's very peaceful, quiet, a good place to study, there are no distractions."

What are you hoping to accomplish with your time here at Castleton?
"My goal is to transmit my culture and language, to show Argentina, to have people know where it is, know about it. I would like everyone to know something about it."

Did you always want to be a teacher?
"Always. Since I was a very little girl. When I was a little girl I would play the teacher and my friends would be students. It was like game. I liked communicating, being social, I like to leave an impression on every student."

Did you have a favorite teacher when you were in school?
"I remember all my teachers. They each left something on me not one specific teacher, but all left different things. All my teachers left an impression."

Why did you choose to study English?
"Actually, my parents forced me to take English class when I was very young. I was speaking English when I was nine years old. I hated it, I liked to pay with dolls not learn language, I did not understand. Later I became interested in English because of its influence in Argentina. I was interested in knowing the culture that was entering Argentina."

What is your favorite thing to do with your free time?
"I love knitting, sewing, listening to music, all types, Latin, Tango, American."

Do you like to travel, where is the best place you have been?
"I love to travel. I've been to Chili, Mexico, England. It is difficult to choose a favorite, each country is different. Maybe England because I was young. It was my first trip alone, I was there for three months. It was fascinating because I love English and it was the first time I was in contact with native English speakers."

Who is your role model?
"My parents because they have been with me in all important stages, they always accompanied me. They are examples in my life"

How would you describe yourself?
"Very sociable, I make jokes, I'm funny. But impulsive which is sometimes good and sometimes bad, it depends on the context."----

Beth is back

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Beth Crosby

She's back! That's right, Beth Crosby is a Castleton alumnus from the class of 2006 and she's returned to the nursing program and will now be a member of the class of 2010.

Crosby chose to return to CSC because she said "I knew I could get a good education at Castleton because I did before. I knew I could get a job after graduation because I did before."

The first time around, Crosby majored in communication with a specialization in public relations, and she minored in business administration. She landed a job right after graduation as the communications director of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce.

"I really liked it. I had my own office. I called it my little cave. During that time I met a lot of great people, grew up, and learned a lot about people," she said.

But Crosby said she didn't like the politics of public relations and she really wanted to make more money. So she decided to go back to college and pursue what she really wanted to do with her life – become a nurse.

Andy Mayer, executive director of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, praised Crosby's performance during her two-year tenure there.

"She took the leadership roll on many projects. We were sorry to see her go, but happy she figured out what she wanted to do with her life," he said. "Something she is passionate about. We wish her the best."

Asked why she chose nursing, Crosby said "I always cared about people. Blood, guts, and gore doesn't bother me, bring it on!"

She also said that while the income was not the primary factor for choosing her new profession, it really helped.

Her return was made possible because she received the Freeman's Scholarship of $7,500 a year. To be eligible, Crosby must be a full-time student, and she had to agree to work in Vermont for two years after graduation. She said she was glad to do both because without the scholarship she could not have come back.

Susan Farrell, Castleton's director of nursing studies, said while it was too early in the academic year to know which student Crosby was in the new "sea of faces," she said "it makes sense for alum to come back to CSC because they already have their bachelor's degree and they don't have to do any of the gen-ed classes."

Farrell also said that the "transition is much easier than choosing another college."

Sally Koch, a classmate of Crosby's, talked about how the transition for her was made much easier by Crosby's outgoing positive personality. Crosby took Koch under her wing at the orientation July and has been supportive and helpful ever since.

"Without a doubt I would have been lost with out her. She helped me with my schedule and she really helped me feel less intimidated and lost," Koch said. "She made me more comfortable."

Crosby certainly appears comfortable back on campus. Sitting at one of the new picnic tables outside of the Coffee Cottage reminiscing about her first experience at CSC, Crosby's joy of being back on campus is reflected in her wide grin and happy eyes. She says her favorite professors were Tom Conroy, Peter Kimmel, and David Blow.

Crosby says she likes the new gazebo, saying it's a good place to come cool off after a class in Leavenworth on a warm September day.

"Leavenworth was hot then, and is still hot today," she said.

Conroy said he remembers Crosby fondly as a "great person and a fantastic student." Leaning back in his office chair he smiled broadly.

"We're glad she's back," he said.

Soccer team starts season slow at 1-3

The Castleton men's soccer team was picked conference favorite before the start of this season. Last year, the team held a 6-1-1 record in the North Atlantic Conference, as well as the conference title. With a good amount of players returning from last year's team to defend the title, there are very high expectations.

When this past weekend began, the men's team was down 0-2 in the standings, with two very close losses against out-of-conference teams.

The first loss was to Norwich in a 1-0 game that the Spartan offense couldn't seem to get a hold of. The second loss was to Oneonta State in a spirit-crushing double overtime defeat. Though the team showed improvement against Oneonta, it couldn't wrap up the game in overtime.

This past weekend, the Spartans looked to improve their place in the standings with a game against Southern Vermont College.

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE

Chris Mulholland defends a Norwish player on Sunday Aug. 29.

They fought a long and tough battle and eventually came out on top, thanks to Ryan Hahn's single goal in overtime.

The win boosted them into their next test, against Williams College, this past Saturday. Unfortunately, the Spartans couldn't put it together against Williams, dropping the game in a tough 8-1 loss.

"We need to utilize our technical skill and pick up the speed of our game. We've got a talented team that knows how to play, but we're stuck in third gear," said junior starting defender Nick Bellizzi. "We also need to increase our communication big time."

Conference play will begin when the Spartans face off against Lyndon State College on September 20.

The Spartans plan to take the experience they've gotten from playing in these out-of-conference games and use it to their advantage in defending their NAC title.

This week, the team looks to improve its out-of-conference record at home against Middlebury College on September 10 and against Me.-Machias on September 13.

Field hockey team at .500 after four

The University of New England rolled into Castleton as rain drops began to splash down onto the field Saturday. The Spartan field hockey offense stayed one pass ahead of its opposition and created scoring opportunities by taking smart shots en route to a 5-4 win.

Trish Fellows was an artist with the crossing pass, connecting with Kayla Blank twice in the first half. Molly Fraher snuck through the traffic in front of the net and buried Castleton's fourth goal.

The Castleton defense left few windows for the opposing offense by intercepting passes through the middle and playing tight defense. Heather Brock and Trish Watson had radar throughout the game, letting few passes get through their guard. Keeper Trisha Clark came through when the saves mattered most. With Patrick Roy style kick saves, Clark denied any likely first half comeback campaign, sending the Spartans into halftime with 5-2 lead.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Castleton Goalie Trisha Clark and back Brooke Towslee fend offf a Keene State attacker.

"We're starting to work together more and starting to see last year's team step back out onto the field," said Fraher.

The second half was filled with missed opportunities and the ball bouncing the other way, though. Despite a well played game on defense, Castleton found itself behind the surge of a comeback.

The University of New England stormed Clark twice more in the last 16 minutes of play. The shots came pouring in, but again, Clark came up big with more kick saves to solidify victory for the Spartans.

Blank led scorers with two goals. Fellows scored what would become the game winning goal and assisted on two. Fraher and Sarah Flore added goals of their own. Flore was named the player of the game for her outstanding play throughout the game.

"We wanted to put one in and put the game away," said assistant coach Meaghan Brown. "We're going to concentrate on cleaning the little things up, working on getting our goals against down and goals for up."

Earlier in the week, the Spartans began the season by losing their opening game in heartbreaking fashion against Kean University, falling one goal short of a successful comeback.

The Spartans earned their first victory the following game against Ramapo College, when Fellows scored the game-winning goal in double overtime.

Castleton tried to carry momentum into its home opener versus Keene State, but the Spartans' comeback was squashed as Keene State pulled their lead back to two goals after managing to sneak the ball by Clark one last time.

The Spartans will host Plymouth State on Wednesday, September 10 at 4:00 p.m. Castleton beat Plymouth last year 2-1 with a late deflection goal.

Tennis team is dominating opponents

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Brittni Racine to serve

The Castleton State College women's tennis team began its quest to become Vermont State Colleges champions on Sunday with a 9-0 win against Johnson State College.

The Spartans aced the Badgers in VSC play by winning every match in both singles and doubles play, thus improving their season record to 3-0.

In singles play for the Spartans, both Brittni Racine and Morgan Reuter won all six games in each of their sets. In doubles play, Emily Bisson and Reuter did the same.

"We haven't seen Lyndon State's team yet, but we handled Johnson's squad easily," said head coach Paul Cohen.

Earlier in the week, the Spartans began their regular season with back-to- back wins against non-conference competitors the Sage Colleges and Becker College .

Against Sage, the Spartans used key individual performances to take the overall victory 6-3. The Spartans won five out of the six singles matches during the contest.

In doubles play, freshmen Michelle Podnecky and Kate Bucci worked well together right from the get go to secure an 8-0 win. Sage took the other two doubles matches.

"Michelle and I clicked right away, surprisingly," said Bucci. "But it actually worked out well because we balance each other out. I think we'll do really well together. Plus, we both don't like losing, which makes us try harder."

Michelle agreed.

"I think that we're able to trust each other and calm the other one down when they need to be," she said.

The Spartans rolled into their second match of the year, against Becker, with caution but confidence.

"The win against Sage was a big confidence booster, but you always have to be prepared to face tough competition," said Bucci. "Although it was good to have a win under my belt, I still went out with the attitude that it could be anyone's match."

In the end, though, the Spartans dominated Becker, winning with an overall score of 8-1. They won all of the doubles matches and lost only one singles match when Charla Klaas left her match with an injury.

"We certainly didn't need any motivation to play well against Becker, as they edged us out of the conference title last year," said coach Cohen.

Because Bay Path College and Becker College recently dropped out of the North Atlantic Conference, the women's tennis team will compete for the Vermont State Colleges championship this year, Cohen said.

"We hope to have a full NAC by next year," he said.

The Spartans will next be in action on Sept. 11 at 4:00 p.m. , playing Mass.-Liberal Arts.

Offensive struggles plague the lady Spartans in early season play

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College women's soccer team dropped to 0-2 on the season with a 1-0 loss to St. Michael's College on Saturday.

The offense struggled mightily again, something that has plagued the team in all three games this season. Forward Courtney Chadburn fired the only two shots on goal.

"Our forwards are new to the system of play this year. They are both new to the team as well and new to each other," said Carisa Chadburn, a captain on the team. "I think goals will come along as the season transpires and they become more familiar with the style of play and each other."

While the Spartans held the Purple Knights to just four shots in the first half, the Knights came out of halftime strong and determined to put one into the back of the net.

Spartan keeper Nakita Baldic kept her team in the game for as long as she could, making three saves. But in the 84th minute of play, the Purple Knights' determination paid off as freshman Laura Ostrout scored her third goal of the season with the assist from Mary Catanzarita.

Earlier in the week, the lady Spartans opened their regular season at home with a 3-0 loss to Plattsburgh State.

The Spartans took nine shots during that game, three of which belonged to Courtney Chadburn.

"Courtney is a big part of our team," said Carisa Chadburn. "She is doing well getting shots off, but she does have a lot of pressure on her from the defenders. She is already drawing attention."

The Spartans did have an opportunity to get on the board when Courtney Chadburn beat the Cardinal keeper on a through pass. She was denied her first collegiate goal, though, after a defender deflected the ball at the last second.

The Spartans looked to turn their luck around against the Norwich Cadets in their second game of the season, but the game was postponed just before the end of the first half due to severe weather. The game was tied at 1-1.

Courtney Chadburn put the Spartans on the board first, but Norwich's Dawn McNulty tied the game two minutes later. The conclusion date for this game has not yet been announced.

Despite the Spartans' lack of offense so far this season, Carisa Chadburn isn't too worried about her team, which has played only non-conference games so far.

"If we can straighten all the kinks out before the conference games, we will be competitive and hard to beat."

The Spartans will next be in action on Sept. 11 at 7:00 p.m., when they play at non-conference Fitchburg State.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Katie Hoxsie prepares to trap a ball against Plattsburgh

Sports Column

Matt Linden

The one thing you never want to see in sports, as a fan or even a teammate, is your team's star player suffer a season-ending injury at the beginning of the year.

Did I mention that the star player set the single-season touchdown record for Quarterback last year, led his team to a perfect 16-0 regular season and is the reigning league MVP?

Sorry Pats fans, but you could be in for a long season without the golden arm of Tom Brady.

In the first quarter of the season opener against Kansas City Brady was tackled low by Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard and left the game with an injured left knee. If you listened to the crowd's reaction when Brady went down, you would think they witnessed someone get killed.

The only thing killed on the play was New England's chances at making the Super Bowl this season. If you really think backup Matt Cassel is going to come out of nowhere and lead them to the Promised Land, either you are extremely hopeful or simply delusional.

Whether you want to admit it or not, the Patriots are not even close to being the same team without Tom Brady. Their offense starts and finishes with the leadership, poise and playmaking ability that he has consistently shown as quarterback over the last seven seasons.

Sure, when Drew Bledsoe was seriously injured at the start of the 2001 season, Brady was the backup who stepped in and led the Pats to the Super Bowl. But Brady had experience playing in big games during his collegiate career at Michigan, while Cassel has been riding the bench since his days backing up Matt Leinart at USC.

The search for another quarterback is already underway at New England, and the team will be working out free agents Chris Simms and Tim Rattay during the week. Maybe they could convince Daunte Culpepper to come out of retirement and reunite him with former Viking teammate Randy Moss.

Brady's injury affects more than just the New England Patriots, considering its magnitude and his importance to the team. With the defending AFC champions in a state of panic at the quarterback position, the whole conference is wide open for the taking and a team like San Diego or Jacksonville could be going to Tampa in February.

Before worrying about winning the conference, their focus should simply be on defending a tougher division than usual. The Patriots should have some company in the suddenly competitive AFC East with a solid Bills team and the new-and-improved New York Bretts.

This weekend's battle against the Jets will tell us a lot about this Brady-less Patriot squad. The Pats could have a tough time defensively with a Jet offense clicking under gunslinger Brett Favre, who threw for two touchdowns in his impressive debut Sunday.

In the meantime, Bill Belichick needs to go back into his bag of tricks and find a way to survive the season without his superstar. No video cameras allowed.

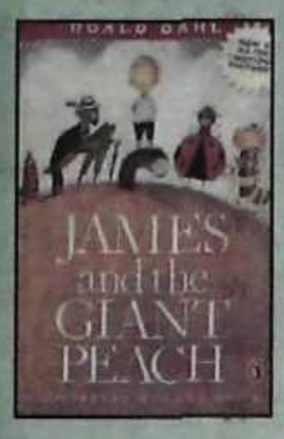
Bold Prediction of the week: Notre Dame Football will go to 2-0 with a win over Michigan, 27-23. Go Irish!

THE SPARTAN

September 24, 2008 Castleton State College Student Newspaper www.castletonspartan.com

INSIDE

NEWS



Why is this book banned? Librarians unite against book banning

Page 4

Heather Slater: comes back from war.

Page 3

A&E

Philladelphia: Photos of the recent play

Page 5

SPORTS

Victory: Women's soccer beats Lyndon

Page 8

OPINION

Sarah Palin: Sees Russia from her house.

Page 5

NEXT ISSUE

Should hookahs be banned from campus?

INDEX

Editorial..... PAGE 2
News.....PAGE 3- 4
A&E..... PAGE 5
Front and Back... PAGE 6
On Campus..... PAGE 7
Sports..... PAGE 8

Contact us at thespartan@castleton.edu or ext. 6067

The battle over booze

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series on the issue of lowering the drinking age. Part two, in next edition, will detail DUI and accident numbers both sides use to bolster their stance in the debate.

Castleton's President Wolk by virtue of the alphabet appears 7th on the MADD hit list. Yet he proudly proclaims "for a long time I was the only one on it."

The hit list is generated and posted on the Web site of the second most powerful political lobbying organization in the U.S., Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It names over 130 college presidents, alphabetized by institutions, who have signed the Amethyst Imitative supporting lowering the drinking age to 18.

The Amethyst Initiative is promoted by the activists group Choose Responsibility, and is the brain child of former Middlebury College President John McCardell. It is a petition signed by college presidents that states "We call upon our elected officials: To support an informed and dispassionate public debate over the effects of the 21 year-old drinking age. To consider whether the ten percent highway fund "incentive" encourages or inhibits that debate. To invite new ideas about the best ways to prepare young adults to make responsible decisions about alcohol. We pledge ourselves and our institutions to playing a vigorous, constructive role as these critical discussions unfold."

Madd as hell

MADD released a statement that called the initiative "misguided" and providing "deliberately misleading information meant to confuse the public on the effectiveness of the 21 law."

MADD's President Laura Dean-Mooney posted a message on the MADD Web site saying "parents should think twice about sending their teens to these colleges."

"By signing onto this initiative, theses presidents have made the 21 law nearly unenforceable on their campuses. In fact I call into question whether or not these campuses are bothering to enforce the 21 drinking age," she said.

MADD also calls into question the motives of the presidents.

Continued on PAGE 6

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

The various decisions an 18 year-old can make legally in the U.S.None of them include drinking alcohol.

Economic woes trouble CSC students

By Michael O'Donnell
Contributing Writer

For Castleton students, the life of luxury and pleasure may be over.

With rising economic pressure, students are beginning to become more cautious on what they spend and do in terms of entertainment and living needs.

Many students say they are already beginning to feel the penny pinch.

Major food costs combined with gas prices above $4 a gallon have become expenses that they just cannot handle.

Student Dan Conley explained how living off campus has become a major hassle, and said he doesn't know what to do when winter comes around in terms of heat and oil costs.

"My roommates have talked and we have decided we're not going to put the heat on. We're gonna sit tight and wear sweatshirts instead," Conley said.

Sophomore Ralphy Celestin agreed that times are tough saying that things need to improve economically to help ease the pain.

"Gas is the only thing that has affected almost everyone around me. We need to go into Iraq and get that oil baby!" he said passionately. Some students say they struggle just to find ways to get to campus when school is in session.

"I actually have to hitch hike about 120 miles to school every time," said Castleton student Roy Mercon.

Dennis Proulx, the director of residence life, is mostly concerned with how students are dealing with the costs of rising food and gas prices.

"It would appear that there are indeed less cars on campus this year. It might be a reflection of the economy or just parking problems, I don't know," he said." In terms of food concerns, what I do know is that what we have seen is that this year more students are choosing the unlimited plan because they may be concerned with the price of food.

It has become a big burden on us due to rising prices from other local venders."

Michael Williams, director of dining services on campus, said he is feeling the crunch too, with food costs having risen an estimated 15 to 20 percent from last year. Despite that, he said costs to students have not risen.

"Not at all," he said. "We're absorbing it."

Gregory Stone, the college's dean of students, says that the hardship students have now will hopefully only be temporary.

"Our concern is that the state is making decisions, that we can absorb, but there might be more budget and tuition concerns that might affect our college later on," Stone said. "Students have begun to find it more difficult to pay their bills."

But with all the struggles, many believe that the best way to get around this crisis is to conserve energy and to continue looking for better jobs.

J.D. Jackson found one, working for the United States Air Force as a staff sergeant.

He said if you work hard enough, success will come.

"You can't just sit around and complain all the time. You need to decide to take the world by your hands and use that toward your advantage. The economy is only bad if you make it that way yourself. You need to take every situation as it comes, no matter if you are poor or rich," Jackson said.

PHOTO BY MOLLY FRAHER

Students grab some grub at Fireside in the campus center.

Fireside set to close after Christmas break

By Molly Fraher
Contributing Writer

Many campus goers sit at the small round tables chit-chatting away about whatever happens to be the topic at hand. Others sit in a comfortable silence, but all seem to be enjoying the atmosphere at Fireside Café.

But that atmosphere won't be around for much longer.

Fireside and the rest of the Campus Center will be closing after the last final exam this December. The facilities won't reopen until late August of next year once the renovation and expansion is completed.

Students concerned about where to go to get their breakfast or late night snacks might be pointed in the direction of Huden Dining Hall, which will "continue Fireside's cash operations in the Alumni Room," said Bill Allen, dean of administration.

"I have extreme confidence in Aramark to make this work," said Allen, who spoke confidently about the upcoming transition.

> *"I don't really like the idea of sitting at a cafeteria table at ten o'clock at night,"*
>
> JOSH BASHAW

"I'm really more concerned about the breakfast thing," said senior Patrick Duffy. "If it's at Huden but it's the same food Fireside has to offer, then I'm fine with it."

Fireside's faithful employees said they aren't too concerned about all the changes, but they are talking about them.

Maureen Breslin has been working at Fireside's establishment for more than eight years now.

"I've been through all this before," she said, as she fidgeted with one of her well-known pigtails. "So it's not the first time for me, but I'll admit, it does get hectic."

Breslin hopes that this new renovation will bring some improvements to the café, ones others might not notice.

"I believe we might be getting another walk-in freezer," she said, "which would be a great help to us."

Some students, however, are fixated on what to do when their stomachs start to growl past typical dinner hours.

"I don't really like the idea of sitting at a cafeteria table at ten o'clock at night," said freshman student, Josh Bashaw,

Continued on PAGE 6

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Football is coming, but at what cost?

In a democracy, government is created FOR the people, BY the people. Democracy thrives because we, the people offer a concrete container for it. Collaboration ensures fluid progression in society. Majority rules. Note: the term "majority" should never be taken lightly in terms of democracy.

Often, a misconception arises in the wake of political melodrama. This controversy often stems from the interpretation of (or lack thereof) what democracy actually means and how it's established. When an individual or organization is unhappy or displeased about current events and/or the status of politcal reign, he or she is quick to place blame elsewhere (onto the authoritative figures, dare-I-say). From here on out, I'll call this theory the "knee jerk reaction".

When we don't get the answers (or solutions) we are looking for, it's not uncommon for frustration grow. Although the logical solution in this case, would be to refer back to, and analyze the initial question (rephrasing it might just have better results), it's not always the immediate reaction.

This theory applies on a national scale, but also on a smaller, more intimate level. Whether it's the presidential election that didn't turn out the way we'd imagined, or tax increases in order to fund a program that we aren't the least bit passionate about, the same feeling comes over us; betrayal, of sorts. This feeling derives from our idea that we have no control over the situation, or that other people made decisions for us. We might feel as though we are living in more of an aristocracy than a democracy at times (Minority rule vs. Majority rule).

I'd like to apply our "knee jerk" theory to the intimate setting of our "small school with the big heart" that is Castleton. As we are all very well aware, Castleton State College is expanding. Although we're promised that the enrollment will not rise exceed 2,000, drastic changes are being made to Castleton.

These expansions are being described as "opportunities" that will benefit (and engage) the college as a whole. The general consensus I've received in passing and in conversation with the Castleton public is this: the "knee jerk reaction".

I am guilty of jerking my knees as well. I hate to say it, but I've complained, even bitched about the "Castleton face-lift." It boggles my mind that a hefty chunk of the $25.7 million dollar budget is being drowned in a pool of football mania! (mind you, "It is the largest investment in the history of Castleton and the Vermont State Colleges and it holds the key to our future," said Dave Wolk, President).

I feel slighted that more emphasis is being put on the FUTURE of Castleton than on the PRESENT. The football program is being built from the ground up (literally) to entice the interest of more athletically inclined students to our school. In any other setting, I'd say, "Hey cool!" but this is a small liberal arts school, and my hard-earned money ($300 student activity fee per semester) is the down payment. In the entire span of Castleton's existence (remember, it's one of the oldest in the country), football was never a concern. Why now, is it top priority?

One last bitch, I promise:

As a Communications major, it's a huge slap in the face that there were once significant plans to revive and update the Comm. department (relocate to the NEW Campus Center), but now they've been cut. Where is that money going instead? Surely not to the "state of the art" turf field.

Here is a small excerpt from President Dave Wolk's convocation speech, in an attempt to explain away 'changes':

"To our initial regret, we decided that we could not relocate the Communication Department to a new addition to the Campus Center. That plan entailed exceptionally high expenses to relocate a steam line and utilities. Instead, we intend to build an addition to Leavenworth Hall for a new TV studio. Although we liked the idea of building a home for all student media in the Campus Center, there are also good reasons to keep the Communication Department in an enlarged Leavenworth Hall near colleagues in other academic disciplines. We sense that faculty in the Communication Department are understanding of the need for modifying our plans and that some may actually prefer the new arrangement."

I'm kicking myself (HARD) now, for not publicizing my thoughts sooner, not having done something to alter what's already in Phase III.

Once again, we revert back to the terminology of democracy. Although some may not regard Castleton in politcal terms, I believe whole-heartedly that Castleton is a democracy, we have the right to free speech, and they have to listen!

If a student feels as though Castleton doesn't offer something he or she would like, it can be implemented and/or changed. With this said, I am displeased with the way in which I've been reactive towards the Castleton "facelift" rather than proactive. This is my encouragement to you, fellow students and staff:

It's never too late to voice an opinion (On the flip side, it's never too early either). In this case, I can't count how many times I've heard complaints, and/or seemingly hopeless remarks made by students and staff alike, regarding some of the Castleton's recent undertakings. Hey, I just did it myself, right? Democracy works by majority.

This is not an aristocratic organization. We are the framework of this building, the cement that holds it together. Our opinions are what matters. And technically, we hold financial control as well...those big bucks aren't growing on trees. We are the majority, and it's important that we remember that.

It only takes a few words (in this case, apparently more) to voice your opinion, whatever it might be. We can only make the best out of what we have, but what we have, can be the best. While we're here, Castleton is our home, our reality, our future. Embrace your own ability to affect change. If you have something to say, say it...Loud enough so Castleton can hear.

--Shelby Lacroix

Sarah Palin lacks the smarts

If you're one of those women or otherwise exclusively affirmative-action-minded individuals who plans on voting in this election in favor of the gender underdog, I bid you a strong beware.

You see, voting for a certain candidate just to see a woman in the White House is just as ridiculous as voting for a certain candidate just to see a black man in the White House.

The only difference, at least as far as I'm concerned, is that voting for the former will screw you over — big time.

It's not a big stretch to say that this very notion of women wanting to vote for women is exactly why McCain did the isavvy thingi by pulling in Alaskan governor Sarah Palin as his running mate.

Wait a minute — savvy?

Saying McCain was savvy by choosing Palin solely to bait women voters is giving him far too much credit. By McCain presenting Palin as his VP to try and reel in and satisfy the women who wanted to see Hillary Clinton is office, he is basically saying that Palin and Clinton both being women is enough common ground to make Clinton supporters automatically support Palin.

That's right. Disregard the fact that their views on women's rights, war, and taxes completely differ, but instead realize that since they're both women, Sarah Palin may as well be Hillary Clinton! Really? Savvy?

Also, consider a second motive for McCain choosing Palin. During the primaries, the big focus was on notable demographics of each of the candidates. We had race with Obama, gender with Clinton, and to not be unfair to McCain, threw in his age, even though it's arguable that age played the smallest role in the possibility of discrimination.

Once the election came down to McCain and Obama, McCain's age took even more of a backseat and it became clear that this is a irace race.î (Heaven forbid it actually be an issues race).

However, it is what it is, and no one knows that more than the candidates, and since McCain voted against the Martin Luther King holiday back in 1983, race being such a factor must have alarmed him. Of course in April of this year, McCain backpedaled and said he was wrong to have done so, but really, did he have any other choice?

"Since they're both women, Sarah Palin may as well be Hillary Clinton! Really?"

So, now he pulls Sarah Palin in as his running mate to bring gender back into the election, but this time in his favor. It was the easiest way to do so aside from the man sprouting a uterus himself. Again, savvy? The only savvy thing about all of it is that the voters who choose to vote on the demographics rather than the issues are actually going to buy into it.

But enough about the genius formerly known as McCain. Let's focus on Palin. Oh, where to even begin? Analogy time.

Has everyone seen the movie "Legally Blonde?" Well, if you haven't, let me catch you up. (And you totally should see it, by the way. I have the DVD). The protagonist, Elle Woods, a blonde sorority girl from California whose major is fashion merchandising and signature color is pink, follows her lawyer-bound ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law School after he breaks up with her for not being serious enough.

Yes. In the spring of her senior year, Elle, with her degree in fashion, applies and is accepted to one of the most prestigious and elitist colleges in the country.

As movie-goers, we suspend our disbelief to accept a world in which this could actually happen, and even with that in mind, it's a bit hard to believe. The plot takes a slightly more realistic turn when Elle gets rebuffed in just about every way when she arrives at Harvard.

She's kicked out of classes for being unprepared, mocked by the other students, and even her former boyfriend of several years still doesn't buy her as a serious scholar.

At one point, one of her professors turns to someone and asks, "Do you think she woke up one morning and said, 'I think I'll go to law school today.'"

That same sentiment, minus the law school, applies to Sarah Palin.

Let's see: Palin thinks man-made global warming is a sham. She's under investigation in Alaska for abusing her power. And as reflected by her attempt to ban books from local libraries, she has little respect or understanding for the Constitution. When did she decide politics is the path for her? Seriously.

On ABC news, Charlie Gibson asked her if she agreed with the Bush Doctrine. Her response was, "In what respect, Charlie?" That'd be like asking someone if they like pizza, and them answering ïIn what respect?

Did she get into politi because she thought it wou be fun? Was she bored? He even Elle Woods went Harvard for love, that's at lea somewhat of a reason!

Oh, right, back to Elle. S despite the hardships, E decides she's going to pro herself and turn things arou She starts kicking ass in scho and even gets an illusive inter ship spot on a high-profile mu der tri

She faces some more bum in the road, but ultimate becomes the hero and singl handedly proves her client innocence by incorporati information that only she, as iCosmo Girlî would know. It a classic Hollywood ending.

But this is a far cry from Hollywood movie. Usually real life, when an out of plac non-qualified person attemp to take on something wh they're in way over their head there is no triumph over adve sity, no joyful soundtrack pla ing. This is a nation we're tal ing about, and there's a l hanging in the balance.

If you've been a McCa supporter from the beginnin then you're certainly entitle Given, I don't agree with yo but I respect your right to a opinion and that you've seen it that you're informed abo what's going on. If you're n informed, get informed ar vote.

Don't vote because Obama black. Definitely don't vo because Palin is a woman (o you're pissed off that Hillar didn't get the nomination an this is your idea of being vi dictive).

And remember — this isn American Idol. You can onl vote one time, so make count!

— Laura Olson

Letter to the Editor

I very much enjoyed the most recent edition of the Spartan. The stories on improvements to the campus and on the former CSC student now working in the Peace Corps are both interesting and well-developed. I look forward to reading many such stories in the coming academic year.

I am, however, somewhat concerned about the numerous errors throughout the paper. I noted many types of errors, but of specific concern to me were the punctuation, usage, and sentence-structure errors cropping up in a number of stories. Certainly, as an English instructor, I am more inclined to notice errors than many other readers might be; still, I believe that errors in grammar, punctuation, and usage are just as significant as factual errors. In this world, people often judge us based on what we write, in terms of content, but they also judge us based on how we write this content. Numerous errors send the message that the writer is ignorant of the conventions of Standard English or, worse yet, that the writer simply doesn't care.

In the future, I hope that individual staff writers will be more mindful of how they are presenting themselves to the world though their writing and will be more careful about observing the conventions of Standard English.

--Drennan Spitzer

What they're saying on www.CastletonSpartan.com

Responses to: "Where the candidates stand"

Barack wants to clamp down on capitalism and inject a nationalized health care plan. Hmmmm, sounds an awful lot like socialism. No thanks Barack. He also wants to penalize those who become wealthy and successful. Why? To help those who do not help themselves. This country won't elect an individual whose ideologies entail a socialist soviet republic. Go McCain and Palin.

-- Brian

Obama practices the principles of America, through helping those who are forgotten, those who are struggling and those who work hard without reward. He is not punishing the wealthy, in fact he is forcing those who talk about their Christian values of hope and charity to act on these words. Ask yourself this: Are you and your community better today because of the current reckless administration. If so, by all means vote for McCain. If you share the same principles of lies and deceit, by all means vote for McCain.

-- Larry

Response to: "I'm all in"

I'm glad to hear that the head of residence life isn't overreating to this situation. I agree that failing out of college is a serious matter. But as I'm sure so many of us are aware, there are a lot of things besides poker that can lead you down that path. I've even heard of people becoming addicted to social networking sites like Facebook and failing out of school because of it. Please don't spoil the fun just because it's poker. Sounds like CSC is taking the right approach at this time.

-- Randy

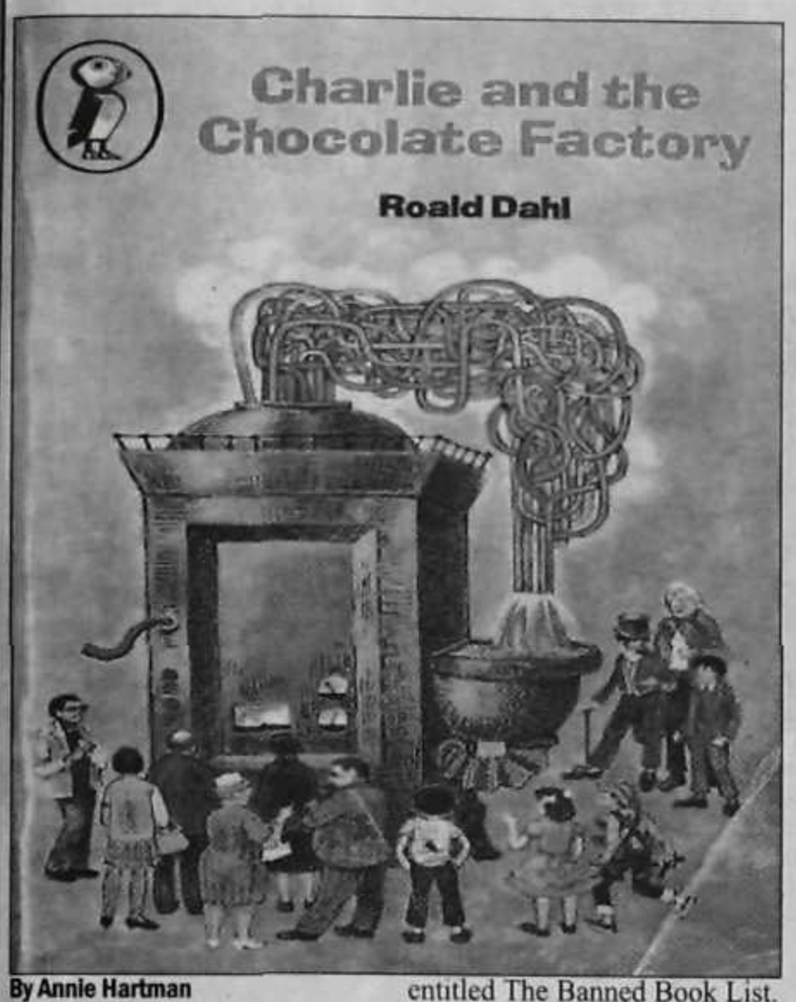
CHOOSE YOUR FATE
VOTE '08

Tired of politicians messing everything up? Want to make a change, but you're not sure how?

Come out Oct. 1 from 12–2 p.m. in the campus amphitheatre to see Vermont Secretary of State Deborah L. Markowitz. Talk about how YOU can choose your fate ! Grab a free meal from the grill! Register to vote and get a t-shirt!

Stay tuned for a forum with Vermont State Senate candidates on Oct. 23.

Who banned your favorite children's books?



By Annie Hartman
Spartan Staff

Imagine living in a society where your government puts restrictions on what you can read. Picture yourself living in a place where your library can not allow you to read certain books.

The scary part: we live in a place like this.

"Banning books is going against the First Amendment," said Nick Thompson, a junior at Castleton. "It's not right."

Some of the most read and most popular books in America have been deemed contraband by school districts and government officials across the United States. A good portion of these books are stories we read in elementary school, middle school, and high school as part of our English curriculum. Ironically, these books that we grew up with as a part of our free education in our free American society are now on an extensive list entitled The Banned Book List.

Books on this list range from text books like "Earth Science," banned because it teaches strictly evolution, to Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," banned because it promoted a poor philosophy of life.

But each year, librarians around the nation take a stand against the government and their contraband of specific literature. From Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, all forms of literature will be celebrated, including those deemed banned.

Banned Book Week, according to the American Library Association, "celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinions even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them."

Most often books are banned under the claim that they are inappropriate for kids. However, these groups don't have that right, according to the American Library Association. Under a subdivision of the Library Bill of Rights, only parents and guardians of minors have the right to determine what a child is and is not permitted to read.

But still, groups continue to press the issue claiming select books should not be allowed in public schools and libraries under the claim that they are protecting children from difficult ideas and information.

"I can understand why some parents would be upset," said Castleton State College English Department Chair Dennis Shramek, "but that doesn't mean I agree with it."

Several students at the college disagree with the concept of censoring and banning books as well. Many were shocked when they read a list of books deemed classics on the list.

"Gone with the Wind" is Pulitzer Prize winning novel and considered a classic, but was banned from the Anaheim, Cal. Union High School District English classrooms in 1978 because of a derogatory term.

"James and the Giant Peach" was not only a childhood favorite, but was also made into a Disney film in 1996. But the book by Roald Dhal was banned on three separate occasions in 1991. The work of fiction was banned in two public schools in Florida and another in Virginia. Parents of students, backed by government officials, said that book was "inappropriate reading material for young children."

"I feel that students that are kept from reading some of the books we grew up with are missing out," said Justin Corcoran, a sophomore at Castleton State.

This year marks the 27th annual Banned Book Week, a week-long recognition of all those books sentenced to a life on the Banned Book List. Banned Book Week also encourages literary freedom, both in reading and writing. The Castleton State College library puts up a display each year to encourage the reading of banned books.

"We need to have the freedom to investigate different ways of life," said Sandy Duling, CSC library director. Duling said that in previous years, students have done readings from their favorite banned books during the Banned Book Week. This year, another display will be set up in the Calvin Coolidge Library complete with a list of the banned books and the books themselves.

According to Duling, the library on campus has not encountered a direct issue.

"We have had incidents with parents complaining about the Internet access," she said.

But she stressed that Castleton State's library will continue to provide open access to literature and the Internet. Though there has not been an incident directly on campus, in 1995 there was uproar over the book "Daddy's Roommate," which appeared on the shelves of the Rutland Free Library. Library Director Paula Baker, came under attack by a Rutland mother backed by parents from around the Rutland community who said the book was inappropriate for children. Though the parents were not looking to ban the book altogether, they did want the book taken out of the general collection so that children could not check out the book without an adult's consent.

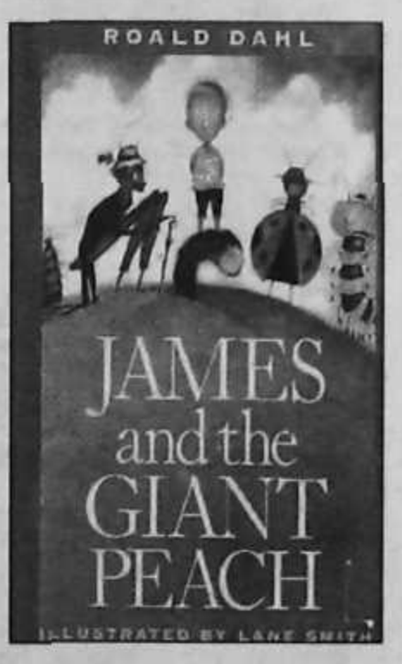
Baker stood her ground and defended the book's availability. On June 14, 1995, the decision was made and the book would stay put. Duling agreed with Baker's decision so greatly that after the hearing, she nominated Baker for a national award for her efforts. She believes that some books are inappropriate for children but determining their availability for children is the parents' job, not the librarians.

"Bad literature seldom makes those lists because they are not compelling," she said. Duling said both she and her children often pick their next book from the Banned Book List because they were so well-written. She encourages students at CSC students to do the same. Shramek agreed with Duling and explained that in some instances, the best thing a writer could do is get themselves on the Banned Book List.

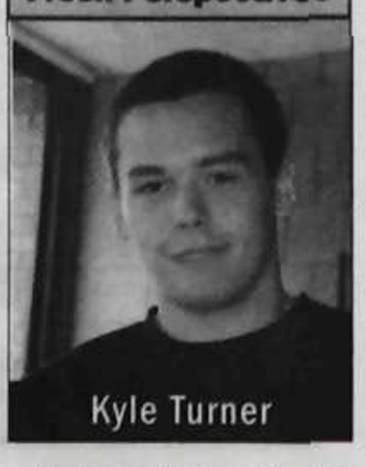
"Once people find out a book is banned it becomes very popular. That's why censorship doesn't work in our society," he said.

Efforts in preserving the availability of all literate are especially important now that stories have emerged about vice presidential candidate, after Sarah Palin allegedly banned several books in a public library in Wasilla, Alaska while she was mayor of the town. When a librarian did not comply with the banning, she was fired. Her job was reinstated but it raised the issue of banning and unconventional restrictions on literature set by Palin.

"It's a really good talking point for the opposition," said Castleton Professor Robert Wuagneux. He continued, saying, "Where does it stop and who will determine it?"



Fresh Perspectives



Kyle Turner

Well another week has passed here at Castleton State College and people are becoming accustomed to living on their own.

Listening to the students around the campus and around the suite, it seems like everyone feels like they have been here for longer than just a few weeks.

As everyone would probably agree, we are all soaking up the atmosphere of college and enjoying just about every second of it.

Forming new relationships with people we recently met and keeping in touch with most of our friends from High School may be getting a little hard for some, but it is going to happen either way.

Money may also be getting tight for those of you who have not found a job on or off campus yet and trust me; I know how you feel because gas, cell phone bills, car insurance and other essentials are not cheap anymore.

Just keep on plugging away looking for a job and eventually I'm sure something will turn up for you.

Basically life is just not going to get that much easier for us anymore, no matter how much we may deny it, life is only going to get harder and we just have to hit life head on and say, "Watch out life. Here I come!"

It's kind of like going to class when you are doing poorly, even though you are doing badly, you still go to class and try.

A lot of kids are staying up extremely late from what I know and well that is their choice -- and I'm not putting anyone down because I stay up late too -- but just realize that it may come back to bite you sometime.

As a freshman it is hard to learn when you should go to bed as opposed to going to bed whenever you want to.

Most of us are used to our parents making us go to bed at a certain time and now that we don't have them here, we just go to bed whenever we think is right.

With this being our first year away from home, we have to realize that we need to discipline ourselves or else we may never make it out of here or make it in the real world if and when we get there.

There's more parking than you think

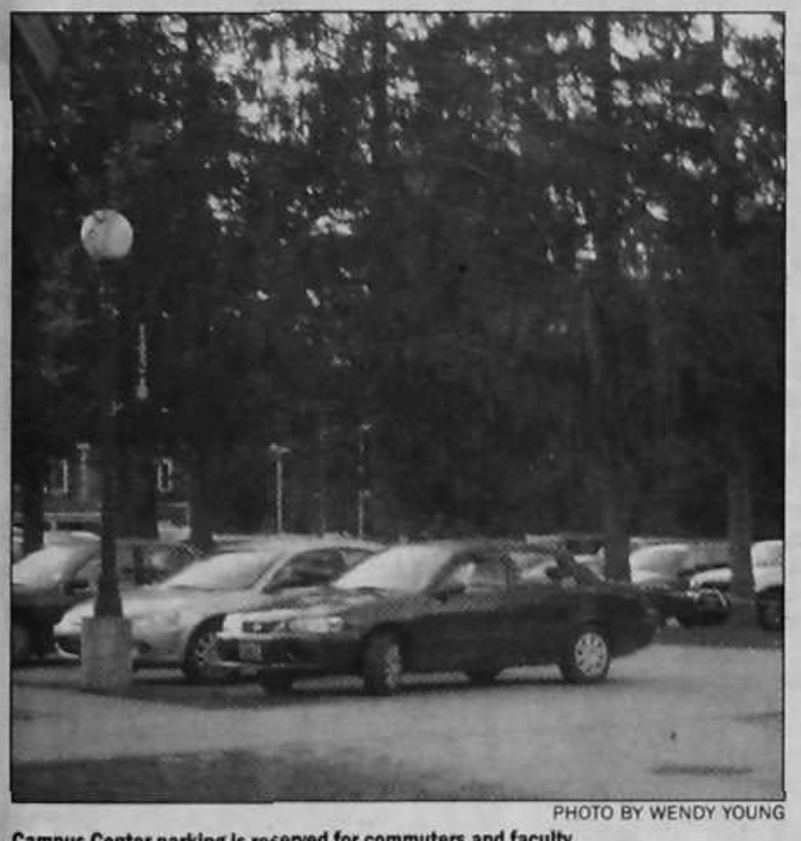


PHOTO BY WENDY YOUNG

Campus Center parking is reserved for commuters and faculty..

By Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

On the campus of Castleton State College there are a total of 12 different parking lots.

Two lots are for freshman residents, four of those lots are for upperclassman residents, four lots are for commuter parking, 7 of those lots are for faculty. And while that does equal 17 not 12, some of the lots overlap.

Freshman lots are the observatory lot and the one on south street, fondly nicknamed 'Africa'.

Upperclassman have a choice of both the freshman lots as well as the Castleton Hall lot, and most of the Ellis lot. Commuters have the main commuter lot, a couple rows of the campus center lot, the old chapel lot, and a couple rows of the Black Science Lot.

Faculty have a row in the Campus Center lot, the Glenbrook lot, a row in the Black Science Lot, Woodruff lot, FAC lot, and a row in the Ellis lot. That's a lot of parking spaces.

About people being parked in the wrong spots, Director of public safety Bob Godlewski says "The problem exists every year.

And there's really no need for such a problem. On his walks around campus, Mr. Godlewski frequently notices 25-50 open spots in the south street parking lot. Students may not like to park there, but isn't that better than getting a ticket for being parked in the wrong place?

For those students with cars, watch your email. When construction will be in a certain area, or, starting November, when there may be snow, students are required to move their cars to the appropriate places as designated in the email.

Otherwise, they move the car for you and you have to foot the bill.

Back from Afghanistan onto the soccer field

By Courtney Bonoyer
Spartan Staff

For many college students, the sort of things they have to worry about involve passing their exams, not drinking too much, and how they will pay off their student loans after graduation.

For one Castleton student, however, worries became much bigger during her sophomore year in 2007.

Halfway through the spring semester, Heather Slater was called up to serve in Afghanistan. She had decided to join the U.S. Army Reserve because she was nervous about college and didn't know what to do. She had hoped that she would have been able to finish college before she got deployed, but that didn't happen.

Getting deployed was difficult as she had to say goodbye to her family and friends, while her time in Afghanistan would delay her graduation date by more than a year.

Slater's friend and teammate Carisa Chadburn said that Slater leaving was hard for the soccer team, as they were then short a mature player with lots of experience.

In March 2007, Slater went for basic training and by July, she was in Afghanistan. She worked as a military police officer at a secret facility in Bagram.

When she wasn't working 12-hour days or dealing with prisoners, she played soccer and went to the gym.

But it wasn't always about the war while she was there. Slater got to experience parts of Afghanistan that are rarely shown by the media.

She got to know the locals on and off the base. The military hired locals to work on the base so they could learn a skill and make a living.

"I became very close with the guys who cleaned the bathroom," Slater said. "We even exchanged gifts."

She also got involved with humanitarian things, which she said was her favorite part about being in Afghanistan. Among the things she did, Slater worked with kids, giving them toys and clothes as part of Operation Care, an organization that helps out the local people in Afghanistan.

The humanitarian aspect was a great experience for Slater, who is double-majoring in social work and sociology here at Castleton.

While she was there, she also received a care package from her soccer teammates.

"(It contained) the new warm ups with her name, a ball, and let Heather know her number was being held," Chadburn said.

Slater also received letters from Rutland Elementary School students, courtesy of Slater's FYS Professor Tom Rutkowski.

Chadburn and Rutkowski made sure to keep in touch with Slater via email, although Rutkowski noted that Slater's responses "had to be very vague."

After being in Afghanistan for a year, Slater returned home in July of 2008.

"Being (in Afghanistan) for a year felt very long," Slater said. "You miss out on a lot and miss people".

Her teamamte couldn't agree more.

"She's making up for lost time and is always out catching up with the friends she was apart from," Chadburn said.

Slater feels that her time in Afghanistan made her more patient, tolerant, and feels like she has a lot of free time here at Castleton.

Although there is no telling how long that free time will last, as Slater's unit prepares for deployment to Iraq around late 2009 or early 2010.

When asked how she felt about going back, she said she "gets pulled in different directions and wants the experience," but she would like to finish college first.

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A Non Trad's View

Susan Hernandez

Everywhere I look people are talking about change.

There are two ways change occurs. First you're going happily about your life and change smacks you upside the head and forces itself on you. In this case you can except it or fight it.

Secondly, when you are not happy with the path you are on you can choose to try and initiate change, and participate in the process of creating it.

Now I normally like change. I even seek it out, which accounts for my sitting in a Castleton classroom six months before my 50th birthday. But I am a bit afraid of some of the changes that are promised on the political stage these days. While I am too young to have participated in the political marches of the sixties that changed the course of the United States politically and socially, I have benefited from them.

Because students of the 1960's became involved in the political process I enjoyed the social liberties those changes brought. I was able to begin wearing pants to school about third grade, before that we girls wore skirts or dresses.

I was able to celebrate my 18th birthday with a pink elephant cake and legally drink alcohol. I married a Hispanic man even though my father did not attend my wedding, and his aunt refused the invitation because she did not believe in inter-racial marriage. My father did get used to my husband and I believe he even likes him now.

I raised two bi-cultural children in the whitest state in the union. There were a couple of times that my husband had to explain to my children that in truth everyone really wanted to be brown. How else could they justify Coppertone and tanning salons?

Environmental activism cleaned the discarded wrappers and empty cans from our road sides and beaches. My children can still see bald eagles that were near extinction when I was a child.

Now I am afraid that my fellow students who are younger will not participate in choosing which course of change this country takes. I am worried that racism will rear its ugly head and we will lose a potentially great leader because there are people who don't want to vote for a man of color.

I worry that without protection our wild life and our environment are in peril. I have seen Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela. Our environmentally responsible American companies drilled those oil wells in cooperation with the government, and it's now a large oil slick that nothing can live in.

I am afraid of a candidate that wants to reverse Rowe verses Wade. I am afraid of woman losing their right to choose. I am afraid that without a change to the direction of the economy your generation will be saddled with debt that will bankrupt you and destroy the middle class.

Mostly however I am afraid that apathy may prevail and students across the country will sit in their dorm rooms happily enjoying their lives, and than when change hits them up side the head it will be too late to participate in the process of choosing the change that will affect them for many years.

Students craft fine dining in dorms

By Chadwick Cioffi
Spartan Staff

The smell of sizzling barbeque chicken quickly fills the hallway air, traveling to each nose on the floor. Students begin to lick their chops as the saliva fills their mouths. At the source of the smell a hungry resident is preparing the rest of his meal, dicing vegetables, and organizing a row of condiments.

As if he were Emerill Lagasse he quickly adds the finishing touches to the now browned poultry. After the veggies are finally caramelized, the Foreman grill is unplugged and left to cool. The chef's masterpiece of barbeque chicken, sautEed mushrooms, bacon, hot peppers, ranch dressing, American cheese, lettuce, and a secret ingredient makes its way to the plate before being devoured seconds later.

PHOTO BY CHAD CIOFFI

A student adds spices to a pair of hamburgers grilling on his George Foreman Grill.

"Most people are Melvins and don't know how to cook properly," the grill master said, wishing to remain anonymous in fear of having his grill confiscated. "You want your chicken to be juicy, so when you bite into it your tongue gets a little burnt. Put some hot sauce on that, and some salt and pepper. That's 'Merica."

The grill would, under school code, be considered contraband. "We are told to confiscate Foremans if they are being used in the dorms," said Mike Tucci, a Morrill Hall CA.

The comical chef stocks his freezer full of hamburger, chicken, and almost anything else in the meat family. The Foreman Grill is mostly used to cook up a homemade double cheeseburger, or a quick chicken sub, but it has also seen its days of shish-kabob, steak tips, and the chef's favorite, sweet italian sausage. Almost every meal of the day is made on his convenient little grill, rarely attending meals outside his room.

"Real food isn't grade D, it's grade A up in here, we're bonafide," the eccentric cook said, giving a wink afterwards.

A red solo cup is usually in hand as the collegiate Iron Chef is in action. The contents in the drink are usually a micro brew of choice, but sometimes a special drink is in order.

"Whiskey sour is my go to drink. The sour gets my taste-buds tingling, and the whiskey makes my stomach crave that sweet delicious meat, and the ginger ale settles my stomach and puts it as case," said the grill guru.

The last half of the barbeque chicken sub remains untouched on the paper plate. The chef wipes the barbeque sauce from around his mouth, and takes another long sip of the freshly made whiskey sour. The chef acts as a magician, making the sub disappear in the blink of an eye. After pounding his chest and burping louder than most human beings are capable of, the cook becomes unenthusiastic when he catches sight of the mess that resides on the countertop. The cleaning is his biggest pet peeve, but it all comes back to the soul reason of cooking in the first place.

"I cook for myself because it's always satisfaction guaranteed," the grill man said, finishing off his solo cup and putting away his portable grill.

Through the cooking sessi
an appearance by Castle
sophomore, Sam Esser,
usually be expected. As soo
the meat begins to crack
sizzle, and the air becomes
luted with its savory sm
Esser's radar picks up on
action. He appears at the sc
of the cookout as if some
had sounded off the dinner b
Although very receptive
food, Esser will critique
cooking if need be.

"The best I've eaten at sch
so far, was a bass caught
Bomoseen Lake. We put ha
burger seasoning on it, it v
delectable," Esser said.

Esser could just as well
Anthony Bourdain, with all
his traveling and tongue
food critiquing. Usually a
taking a few bites and gaug
the full effect of the finis
product, Esser will lend adv
on improving the quality of
meat. The cat can never k
hold of his tongue and a v
honest approach has paid off
him. The grilling wizard clai
Esser's advice has only driv
him to cook better for his
tique -- finally get that nod
approval. Esser has also prov
to be a fair chef, knowing
will not be fed if the thumbs
always pointing down.

"For the most part the food
excellent, but you have to ke
the chef in check," Es
exclaimed. "If they get lazy
compromises the entire meal.

Commuters miss out on Green Team recyling options

PHOTO BY ALISON CLARK

Green Team students throw recylables into a campus dumpster.

By Alison Clark
Spartan Staff

At 12:50 p.m. two volunteers dragged garbage bags full of recyclables to the dumpster. Tin cans clanged on the sidewalk.

It was a recycling day for the Castleton State College Green Campus Initiative Green Team and the first recycling drop-off for off-campus students behind Castleton Hall. The new program provides off-campus students a chance to bring plastics, glass, paper, cans and cardboard to be recycled.

But this Thursday no one came.

By 1:10 p.m. the volunteers had finished dumping old newspapers, glass, tin and plastic containers into the recycling unit, but all of it came from on-campus sites.

No commuters came, which reaffirmed the Green Team's worries that students are unaware of the work being done.

Commuter Erin Dunbar said she thought the program was a great idea, but she did not attend. She does plan to recycle in the future, but said she thinks in order for the program to become popular it "needs to be more advertised."

The Green Team feels the same way.

"No one knows what we do, its just eight of us mingling around," said student volunteer Kelley Lawler. She, along with several other volunteers and work-study students, make up the Green Team that is responsible for the recycling program.

Professor Paul Derby, who is involved in Campus's Green Initiative, agrees advertising is needed. The day and time have been established and the next step is to make people aware that this program is available, Derby said.

"It's just starting, it will take a few weeks to make people aware," he said.

The volunteers believe in the effort and want to make a difference even though the work isn't always pleasant.

"It's kinda gross sometimes!" said volunteer Ashley Chase.

The recycling program that started in 2004 has developed into various stages, said Stacia Bucknell, the student recycling coordinator. The green initiative has led to changes to many areas of campus.

The group has endorsed the purchase of hybrid vehicles, sponsored a light bulb exchange, led to the installation of more efficient lights in Huden Dinning Hall and fc
tered many other environme
tally friendly activities on ca
pus, according to the Gre
Campus Web site.

Bucknell is optimistic t
new commuter program w
take off when the word gets o
Bucknell, who lives off campu
brings her recycling to camp
and is hopeful she can get ot
ers to follow.

Students renting off camp
apartments may have to pay f
trash removal and this wou
sufficiently reduce that cost, sl
said. She is also aware that st
dents are busy and is willing
work with student's schedules

She said she is also flexib
about the program and its cu
rent design.

"If it doesn't work, we'll t
to entice people with somethir
else" said Bucknell.

Anything with the recyclir
symbol on it can and should b
recycled, she said. To partic
pate, students simply place th
recyclables in the proper bi
said Bucknell.

Despite the lack of particip
tion on the first week, the pr
gram is scheduled to continu
on Thursdays from 1-2 p.m
behind Castleton Hall.

Construction blocks off South Street

By Jeremiah Haggerty
Contributing Writer

The Castleton Fire District will begin a major project tearing up and replacing the old water mains underneath Main, South, and Glenbrook streets this week. The project will begin on South Street and then move to Main Street and Glenbrook Street. At times construction may cause delays especially for commuting students. The project will be built in three phases and will take three years and $5.5 million to complete. The first phase is the distribution system which includes the water mains. This phase should take roughly 180 days to complete, and will be the main reason for delays around campus.

The second and third phases involve water storage and water metering, both of which won't hold as much inconvenience for students and faculty as the first phase.

The reason for the replacements is the result of a sanitary survey required by the state that showed weaknesses in the system, said Terry Reilly, chairman of the Castleton Fire District #1. Some of the improvements are mandated while others are not, but all will improve the town's water delivery and fire protection. The existing mains are too small and their age is of primary concern, having been installed in the 1920's, said Bill Allen, dean of administration at Castleton State.

The campus will also soon be starting its own construction to renovate Glenbrook gymnasium and the Campus Center.

"There's going to be a lot of construction going on," Allen said "It is an exciting time on campus, there's a lot of change going on."

The campus renovations and the water main project are not affiliated, but the fire district and the college have a good working relationship, officials from both entities said

"What we are trying to do is coordinate our project and theirs," Allen said.

The renovation on campus is expected to be done by winter. Everything is expected to go smoothly as long as the elements cooperate, both Reilly and Allen said.

There's no doubt that there will be some delays for students, faculty and community members as a result of all the construction.

"A lot more students are going to be late for class" said Jennifer Manning, a Castleton commuter.

"Just be careful driving, I can't stress that enough" said Allen.

There will be a lot of heavy traffic flow and at times South Street will be one way, he said. Everything has been pretty well thought out, Reilly said, but he added that "there might be a time or two when you may want to allow a few extra minutes."

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Construction starts on South Street.

SA Elections

Sept. 29 - Oct. 3
Vote for:

Vice President of Academics

SA Secretary

Senior Class Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)

SAAB Special Weekends Chair

Got something to say?

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www.castletonspartan.com

"Philadelphia" brings irish flavor to FAC

PHOTOS BY WYATT ALOISIO

The cast of "Philadelphia Here I Come!" rehearses for last week's production in the Casella Fine Arts Center.

Maxin' Chillaxin'

Terry Badman

Walk with the dead to ease your head

There are many ways to use a shovel – this is not one of them.

Few things extinguish the flames of a stressful weekend better than a trip to the local cemetery.

Hold on. Just – wait. Hear me out.

Many people seem to break out in chronic cases of the heebie-jeebies when cemeteries and graveyards pop up among casual conversation.

It's the whole – you know – death and dying thing, I guess.

Either way, walking across a gated-off slab of earth pregnant with coffined corpses isn't their idea of a weekend getaway.

Fair enough.

But those same people often have a tendency to brashly stereotype those who do enjoy it, denouncing casual cemetery strollers as a bunch of "Goths" or "Satanists."

Now, I'll dig into that pile of shit another day. I haven't the space this time.

But in case you were wondering, no, I don't own a copy of the Necronomicon, and no, I didn't drink from blood-filled kegs at Anton LaVey's backyard barbeques.

There's just something incredibly soothing about a cemetery.

Maybe it's the smell of ancient, earthy aromas in the wispy pre-autumn breeze. Or that eerie calm of somber silence that dangles over your head while you walk along the paths.

Or maybe it's catching the last glimpse of daylight in your eye as it careens and reflects against the gothic, granite headstones.

Whatever it is – it is.

Which leads me to this week's Chillaxin' Challenge: visit a cemetery.

You don't need to bring flowers, a boxful of tissues, or a shovel. You just need a decent pair of shoes, a cup of coffee, and some time to kill.

And no, that off-color line about the shovel was not meant to suggest you or one of your dimwitted buddies go out and dig up someone's great aunt Agnes after chugging a bottle of Jager.

Be respectful. It is a cemetery after all — a place of peace and rest. Bad things tend to happen to those who forget that.

I'm particularly fond of the cemetery in town at the top of the hill on Cemetery Street. It's a quick walk from campus and it's sort of set aside in its own little universe.

Those of you feeling more adventurous may want to take a drive up to Birdseye Mountain just outside of town.

A quick drive up a claustrophobically narrow dirt road off of 4A East eventually breaks into a great little campground area complete with picnic tables, awe-inspiring views, and yes – its own small cemetery.

You get a real sense of that lost-in-Deliverance panic when you drive up there in the early morning fog – the silence alone is astounding — but it's still eerily awesome.

I know some people are still a bit weirded out at the thought of mellowing out in a cemetery. But once you've actually given it a try, I'm willing to bet you found it strangely therapeutic.

It's a cemetery. Some see it as ghosts and goblins; others see it as a warming display of mankind's fragile mortality.

And then there's the rest of us, who take comfort in knowing that even those folks hell-bent on stressing you out and pissing you off will inevitably be dead someday.

Can I get an Amen?

Entertainment In Review

Californication

Film Review By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

It's new, it's fresh, it's Californication A newish series on Showtime (it came out last year, I know I'm behind) starring David Duchovny as a once was famous writer but now a man struggling through his midlife crisis and an apatite for women (he's not a cannibal). Californication, as you may have guessed takes place in LA, California showcasing the life styles of the rich and sort of famous.

At first you might think its going to be another 90210 except it's with adults instead of teenagers. Well I can fortunately say no to that. Californication is a very new and fresh show, making it unlike anything else that is out there. It's not overly dramatic and it stays close to real situations with a bit of pizzazz mixed in.

The series has characters you love to hate and one's you love but probably shouldn't. David Duchovny's character Hank Moody is a guy that knows what he wants but keeps on making brainless mistakes making him seem like a selfish jerk. Other characters include his ex-girlfriend Karen, his daughter Becca Moody and his agent Charlie Runkler. There are a bunch more but these are the main players.

The first season follows Hank as he tries to get back together with his ex-girlfriend who is the mother of his daughter but his lust for attractive women keep on blind siding him.

It's a comedy but also a drama. It has the elements of real life where, it's not all just fun and giggles, there are also those moments where life tends to suck and we get ourselves in these really embarrassing situations.

This show is full of them. It's not like Curb Your Enthusiasm where the main character keeps on getting himself in deeper trouble ever episode. These characters are life like. They get into bad situations but in turn they also do good things.

Californication is a show that you could relate to. I'm not rich and famous but the situations Hank and his friends and family get into are relatable. Well, maybe not all of them, like being able to pick up woman by just saying hello. That might be a little out there, but for some people, you never know. The exact circumstances that Hank gets in might not be all there with reality but the general themes of them are.

If you can't relate to the characters than at least you can be happy with the characters. Like I said before, they are very well developed characters. They're not stereotypes and the people that may seem like they are going to act like morons the whole time, they don't, and they also have their better side.

Missed the first season? If you have Comcast then you can watch it on demand (that's what I did) or you can pick up the season one DVD. It may be too late to start watching the first season since season two premieres on Sunday, September 28th.

Californication is definitely a must see even if you're a season behind. Just watch the first season while the second season is going on and when season two is done, start watching that before (hopefully) season 3.

Keturah & Lord Death

Book Review By Wendy Young

"And I grant you a further boon--find this love in the day I have given you, and you will live and not come with me at all." So Lord Death tells Keturah when he finds her in the forest. Keturah agrees, but how is a 16 year old girl supposed to find her true love in just one day?

Keturah and Lord Death by Martine Leavitt is the story of a sixteen year old girl who meets the man called death one afternoon. In Scheherazade style, Keturah begins by telling Lord Death the beginning of a love story. Her love story. She does not finish the story that night, but begs another day to live--and the next night she will finish her story. Lord Death agrees, and says also that if she can find her true love, he will not take her just yet.

Keturah and Lord Death is a book of searching and romance; but also of learning. Learning what makes true love, and sometimes that the things you look for are right in front of you. It is a relatively short book, but a well told story nonetheless. Out of five stars, this story gets four and a half.

Erykah Badu "New Amerykah"

Music Review By Shelby Lacroix

Erykah Badu brings a true sense of the word honesty to the table in her newest release, "New Amerykah Part One." Her most recent efforts have solidified one soulful dish of music.

"New Amerykah" is a smoky, seductive blend of funk. Her warm tone and edgy beats collaborate to form a paradise of breezy soul.

Badu steps out on a lyrical limb with this one. Each song invites the next; a bold chain of empowerment. Her message is drawn out a bit at times, though its continuity never falters. She's more playful and conscious of her influence this time around.

Slow-paced melody, sizzling percussion, and a voice unmatched by any other artist allows for a seamless collection of art. Badu enlightens musical form with her creative passions.

"Telephone," one of the last tracks on the disc, brings a smooooth and eaaasyyy emotion to the mix. Her words ring true, flowing poetry. Peace of mind is supplied with this fruitful, lengthy addition.

Badu's hopeful vibe brings this disc full circle. It moves us along, navigating through her brain-waves of thought and confession.

A striking balance is provided in the presence of alluring vocals and steamy instrumentals. The absolute unison of the two becomes the main focus of the album.

Erykah Badu pleases her audiences once again, with her rhythmic, penetrating, soul-sugar.

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"Although much large-scale leadership is essential, individual stewardship is much more integral. Organizations like JOPPA PRN provide the much needed avenues for these forms of volunteerism. As a citizen of the world, it is my duty to adopt the cause of those less fortunate than myself regardless of how small my contribution may be. Sponsorships along with donations of time, money, and resources are my obligations. Equality is my cause." --Larry Williams

"I was very interested to get a brief look at the differences in the scope of nursing--nurses there can dispense medications only after having practiced 10 years. There are several positive actions that I can take--donating pill bottles and money, educating others about the information I learned today, and ultimately volunteering for organizations such as Joppa PRN." -- Rebecca Swisher

Coming up Next:

Sept. 25th, 12:30 pm, Jeffords Lecture Hall, Sanjukta Ghosh, "Pop! Goes History"

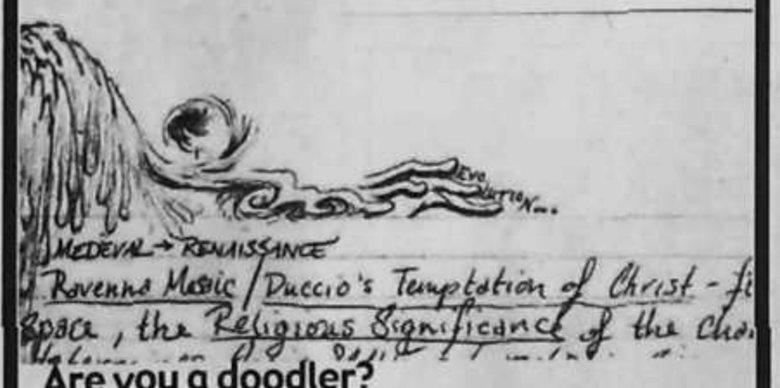
This Phi Eta Sigma Lecture focuses on pop culture, truly Pop culture. Castleton's own Professor Ghosh will talk about the influence of Coca-Cola on American culture.

Sept. 29th, 7:30 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, "Made in Vermont Music Festival" VSO will perform Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," works by Grieg and Gershwin, and a new piece by a Vermont composer. Not sure if you like classical music? Come listen, you may surprise yourself. This is beautiful music beautifully done.

Oct. 2nd, 7:30 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, As You Like It, Weston Playhouse Theatre

The magical forest of Arden comes to Castleton's stage. Shakespeare's comedy offers disguise and deceit, cynicism and idealism, and, of course, a happy ending . . . well mostly happy.

Show us your doodle!



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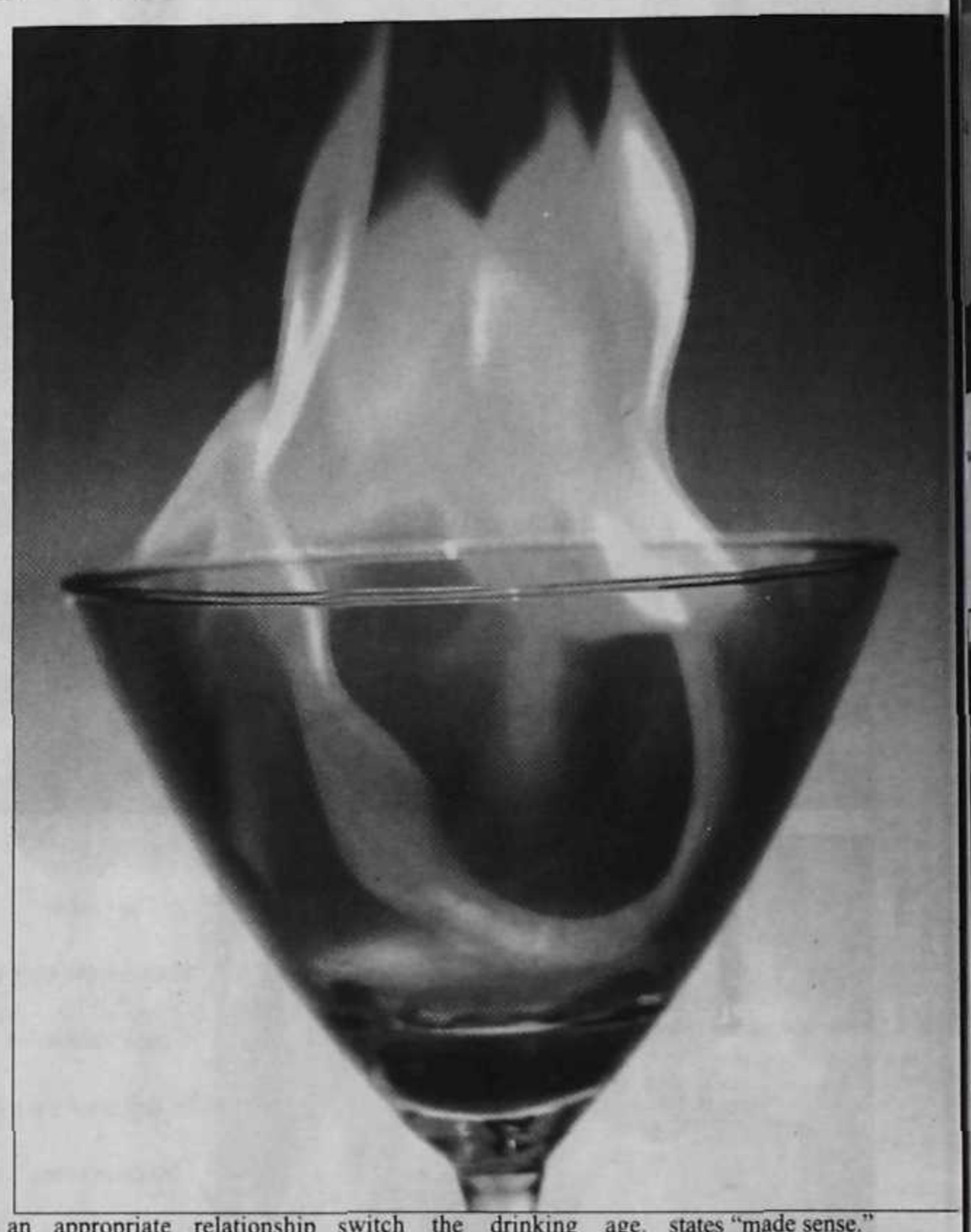
Interested? Email us at thespartan@castleton.edu and show us your doodle! You'll be glad you did.

Drinking age debate heats up

From Page 1



According to Andrew Cormier and some other CSC students, Castleton police do enforce the 21 law. Students say that after a party, police are even ticketing walkers for under age drinking.

The Amethyst Initiative asks each president to articulate a message in writing about why he or she has signed it. The messages can be found at amethytinitive.org. Most of the presidents claim that 21 is not working because it promotes clandestine and binge drinking.

They also say it's hypocritical that the 18-year-olds are legally able to vote, marry, sign contracts, borrow money, be held responsible for any criminal activity, and fight for our country, BUT not be responsible enough to sit down and socialize with the rest of the adult population over a beer. Many of them refer to the 21 law as prohibition.

Cultural attitudes need to change

In an interview, Wolk said that the current situation doesn't allow us (faculty and administration) to model appropriate and responsible behavior around consuming alcohol. He talked about other cultures that don't have the problems we have because they have a much more open approach to alcohol.

Maria Carrenno, a parent of a Castleton junior, grew up in Spain, where attitudes toward alcohol are much different.

"Alcohol was everywhere it was no big deal. Here when you go into a bar its dark with a long bar and a pool table. Only people who are of legal age are allowed in. It promotes a belly up to the bar, and get-drunk mentality," she said. "In Spain the bars have tables and its light, and open. The whole family goes. The adults drink alcohol the children don't but they see their parents drinking socially with food and friends, not getting shit faced."

This is exactly why CSC senior Yvette Furnia believes that the 21 law should stay in place.

"I don't think our culture has an appropriate relationship with alcohol to lower the drinking age. I think other countries do because they have better education that involves their parents. A less harmful relationship," she said.

The Choose Responsibility Web site states that "The U.S. is one of only four nations world wide with a drinking age as high as 21." It also offers up the following facts:

In the state of Vermont, 10 percent of federal highway funds, or about $17 million, is at stake if the state were to switch the drinking age. Representative Michael Obuchoski (D-Windham) said that each state can set its own drinking age, but withholding highway funds hold the states hostage.

Wolk spoke about when each state had different drinking ages and how teens would travel across the boarder to New York so that they could drink legally, and some were involved in accidents when they returned home. He said that he thought back then that a standard drinking age for all states "made sense."

Increasing the age to 21 di n't stop the travel-to-be-leg behavior, it just changed t destination. From Rutland t Canadian boarder is about tw hours, where any 18-year-o with a passport can legal drink alcohol. Many CSC st dents admitted taking trips Canada to party, but eve though it's legal only Furn would go on record sayin "Sure I drank when I was Montreal before I turned 21."

Fireside closing up shop

From Page 1

shaking his head.

Bashaw, along with fellow students Alex Racine and Dave Richards, all agreed that Fireside has a natural, laid back atmosphere that they enjoy, and agreed that it's worth the walk from their home in Ellis Hall.

There's also a dilemma presented to Castleton's student athletes who will be in-season while Fireside is undergoing construction. In the past, some teams have relied on Fireside's policy of 'transferability' if their practice ran later than Huden's regular dining hours. These teams will have now have to eat if Huden doesn't extend time for later food consumption.

"My first concern is that, I hope Huden will stay open later," said Dante Reynolds, a sophomore member of the men's lacrosse team. "Our bodies physically require refueling after practice and I'd really see a disadvantage to us athletes if it didn't stay open later!"

Allen said not to worry.

"We're not going to take any services away from anybody," he said. "Things are just going to be in different locations."

While Allen believes that the transition may be slightly uncomfortable at first, he says that the results are going to be absolutely phenomenal.

Iit's worth a little inconvenience for what we're going to have in the end," he said.

Inside Sports

Countdown to kickoff begins

By Kyle Turner
Spartan Staff

Castleton football has been undefeated since 1787.

Then again, Castleton will not have an actual football team until the 2009-2010 season.

Construction on the football field currently dubbed "Spartan Stadium" will start sometime around October and should finish by the start of next season.

From what the players have said, Rich Alercio is looking forward to the beginning of the season and is glad to be Castleton's first-ever head football coach.

Anyone ever hear of the Shrine game or the North/South game? The Shrine game pits the best football players from Vermont against the best football players from New Hampshire. The North/South game features the best football talent in Vermont, as players representing their respective turfs take on each other. Both games are like All-Star or Pro-Bowl games.

Castleton has five players from the Shrine game on the team as well as ten players from the North/South game. Two players who met each other through those games are Tyler Charron and Ryan Piluski, both of whom play safety for the Spartans.

The two players look at Castleton's football future and see not only Castleton's first season, but every play that is going to be written in the record books when that season begins.

"Events like the first reception, first first down, first interception, first touchdown, and first sack are all going to go down in history," Charron said.

The team currently has roughly 33 players on the roster—the team still needs nearly 100 to fill the roster completely—but many Spartans, including students and faculty, are looking forward to an exhilarating season of football bliss.

Klein, Paul lead Spartan runners

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Maggie Klein grimaces as she concludes a recent race.

By James Dahlgard
Spartan Contributor

Imagine trying to run 5,000 or 8,000 meters at a fast pace with high intensity. For most sports, something like this would be punishment or conditioning. But for the cross country team at Castleton, this is life.

The men's and women's teams compete every week against some of the fastest and most conditioned collegiate athletes in the Northeast.

Since the beginning of the year, Castleton cross country runners have been working hard every day, grinding out long runs and bettering themselves personally and in the standings.

With the regular season almost half over, both the men's team and the women's team look strong, mostly staying in the top half of the results.

For the women's team, stand out Maggie Klein has been phenomenal, finishing first in the Castleton Invitational and tenth in the Smith College Invitational. She ran the 5,000 meter races in an average of 20 and one-half minutes.

Five thousand meters isn't easy, either. It's calculated to be a distance of about three and one-eighth miles.

"I trained a lot more over the summer," Klein said. "Everyone has been training a lot harder than any other year. We've all gotten at least a minute faster."

For the men's team, Jeff Paul has been showing very strong. Paul has been Castleton's top male runner in each meet this season. He ran the 5,000 meters at the Smith College Invitational in just 18 minutes and 18 seconds, an impressive 5 minute and 53 second mil pace.

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULIN

Jeff Paul runs past the pond during a recent meet.

This past weekend, th Spartans traveled down to th University of Massachusett Dartmouth Invitational.

The teams did well, consider ing all of the competition. Th men placed 32nd out of 3 while the women placed 30t out of 40.

Paul and Klein were the to runners again.

Spartan cross country run ners will have their next mee Sep. 27, when they travel t Franklin Park in Boston.

Womens volleyball team looking to improve in sophomore season

By Matt Trombetta
Spartan Contributor

Castleton State College's one-year-old women's indoor volleyball team has started the season slow at 2-5 and 0-2 in the North Atlantic Conference.

Before the season started, new Head Coach Bethany Torrice sat down with The Spartan to talk about her new role.

"First of all, it's really exciting. It's my first time coaching volleyball. That said, we have great athletes who love the sport and work hard," Torrice said.

Torrice's previous experience with volleyball was playing the sport recreationally.

And while she may not have a ton of experience with the sport, she makes up for it with her passion.

"When you enjoy coaching and have a passion for a sport, mix in hard working athletes, good things can happen," said Torrice.

This year's squad consists of eight players including two freshmen and just one senior.

"Gina Nassizera is our lone senior. She's new to the program, but a very big part of our team because she brings that leadership you look for in any senior athlete," said Torrice.

The team is coming off its first year of conference play in which it finished 1-7 in the NAC.

Nassizera brings the leadership aspect to the table, but the Lady Spartans will need more than that to succeed this year, the coach said.

"Jamie Lemiuex is probably our most experienced and important player on this team. As we all know, a team wins games, not just one player," said Torrice. "But she definitely stands out on the court."

Torrice, at the time of the interview, said her team looked very good in the first scrimmage.

In recent play, however, the team beat Lyndon State on Sept. 18, but lost to Husson and Maine Maritime on Sept. 20.

"I just tell my players to remain focused and communicate on the court. They have to know that every ball is always in play and if they never give up, we will be fine," Torrice said in the pre-season.

The team travels to New York to play SUNY Cobleskillo on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question
What are three CDs someone would find in your room or car?

DOUG WIMPLE

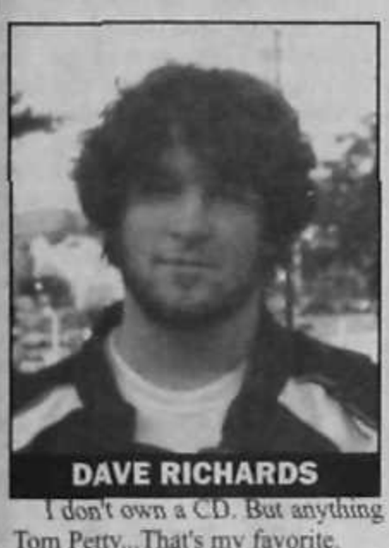
The Greatful Dead, Rolling Stones, and Dave Matthews Band

D.J. Fandel

Dave Matthews Band - Central Park, Shania Twain and Peal Jam

Martianne McBride

Allman Brothers, Bob Dylan and Toots and Madles



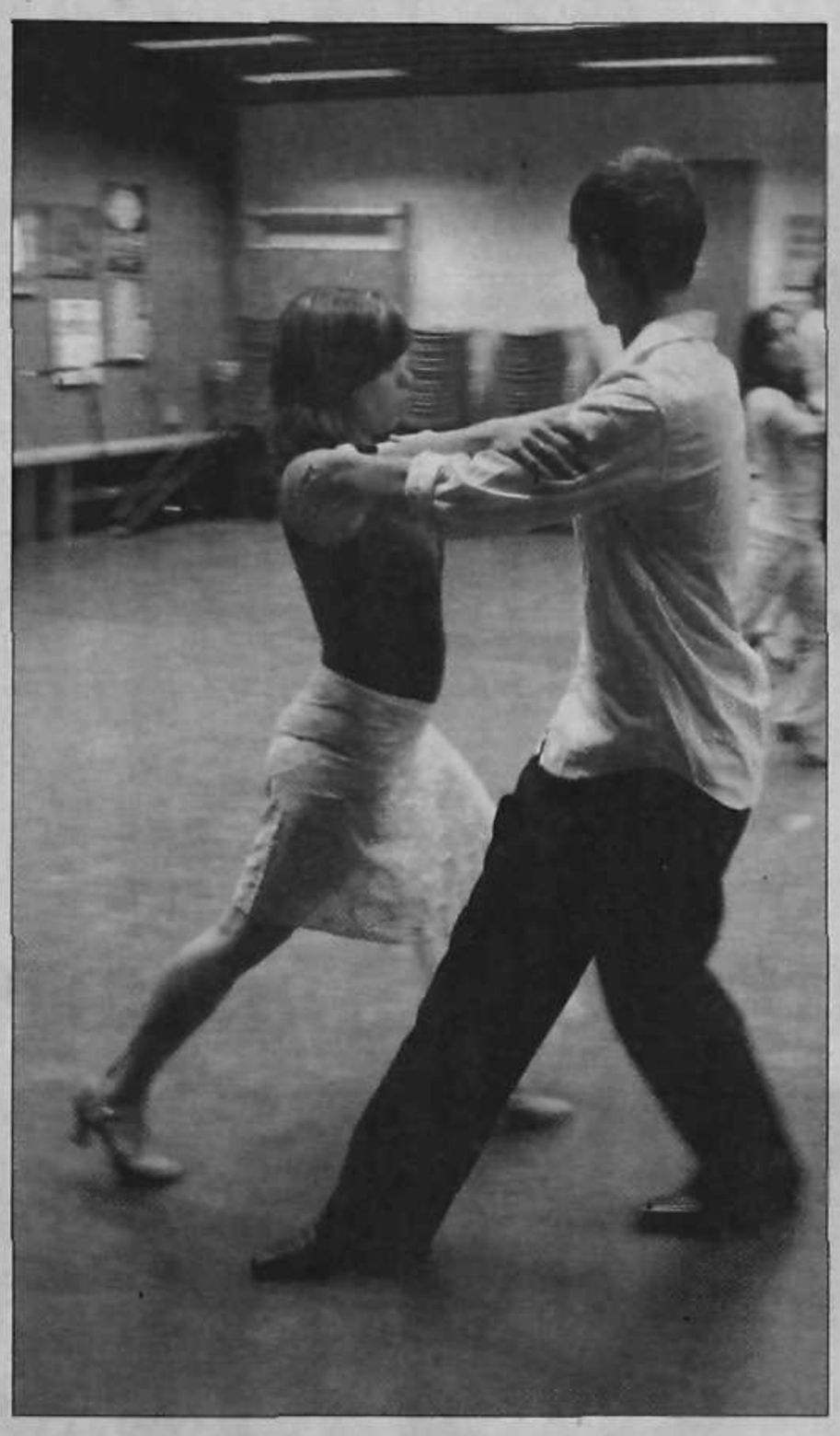
DAVE RICHARDS

I don't own a CD. But anything Tom Petty...That's my favorite.

MIKKA CAMERON

Rhianna, Sean Paul and Michael Jackson

Castleton campus is alive with activity



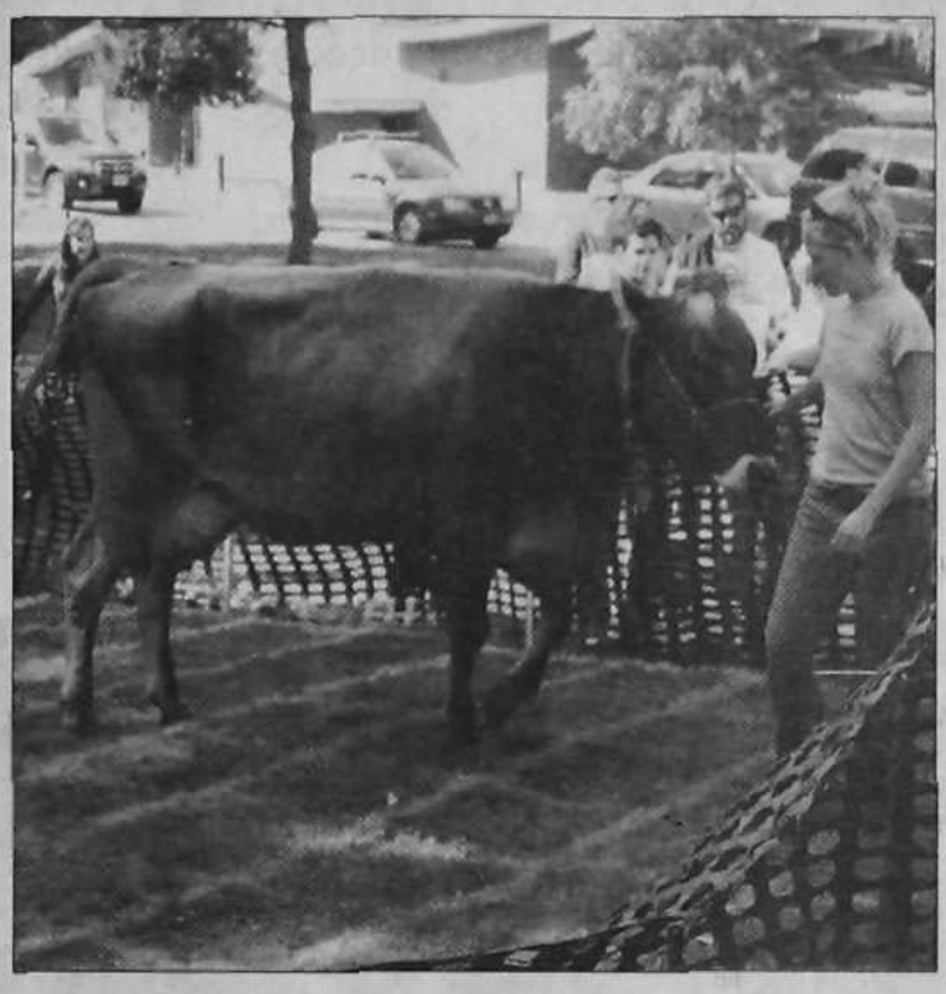


PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Clockwise from upper left: Ana Ditursi teaches a student to tango during a recent lesson in the campus center.

Students and their families were treated to a virtual theatre production during homecoming.

Onlookers wait for the cow to perform in the homecoming cow plop bingo- which never happened.

Adam Pate, "THE CARICATURE GUY" sketches a portrait in under a minute

Students plant wetland plants outside the new green house.

Nice to meet:
Holly Southwick

By Alison Clark

Holly Southwick is a student officer at Public Safety. She issues parking tickets, answers emergency calls, and unlocks doors. She loves the outdoors and tries to be generous about issuing tickets. She is a junior at Castleton and is working to earn a Criminal Justice degree.

Have you had any serious calls lately?
"No it's been quiet since school started, which is nice. It was busy the first few weeks, but it has started to calm down since then."

What's the most annoying thing about your job?
"I get a lot of blue light calls, I think its an electrical problem, a surge or something, I go and make sure everything is ok in the area."

Do you give out a lot of tickets?
"I try not to ticket. If people come out and calmly discuss with me I will take ticket off, I try not to confront people."

Do you like your job?
"I like my job, I mean, I've had a foot chase. A kid ran out of a building and fell, I went over to talk to him and they took off. They could've had a head injury so we took off after them. It turned out they were ok afterward."

Do you like Castleton?
"I do like Castleton, I came from a small town so the small school has a homey feeling."

What do you like to do in your spare time?
"I like to read, listen to music, I like to hike, I want to go skydiving though. I think it would be cool to jump out of a plane."

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Men's soccer opens NAC play with win

By John Shramek
Sports Editor

The Spartans defeated Lyndon State College 4-0 Saturday on Alumni Field, improving their record to 3-5 on the season and 1-0 in North Atlantic Conference play.

Ryan Hahn led the Spartan offense, scoring two goals and assisting on the other two. Greg Klopfer and Josh Costa each netted goals of their own.

"I thought we played quite well, finishing four great goals from unselfish passes, and demonstrating a hard-nosed defense," said head coach John Werner.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMER

Josh Costa scores against Lyndon State College on the way to a 4-0 victory.

Hahn's first goal came in the first half when he one-touched a loft shot over Lyndon's goalie, Jeff Giroux.

The Spartans were shut down the rest of the half.

Halfway through the second half, Spartan junior Sean Fitzgerald's leg was injured as he made a run at the goal. The crowd and Spartans were visibly agitated that the referee made no call.

The Spartans made their agitation known by breaking the game wide open with three quick goals.

First, Costa made a charge at the goal but was denied by Giroux. Hahn picked up the loose ball and passed it back to Klopfer, who put a hard one-touch shot on the ball, sending it just out of reach of a diving Giroux.

Just three minutes later, Hahn scored again as he headed a ball past the outstretched arms of Giroux. Hahn, who had been going back and forth with Giroux verbally during the game, took a quick look at the goalie, who stood motionless with a look of disbelief on his face.

Then, Costa finished the Spartans' scoring as he slipped a slow rolling ball past Giroux's dive and into the wide-open net.

"I do think the no call there raised our level of intensity," said Werner. "It did add to the domination we were having, keeping the ball in their end a lot of the time."

Werner again complimented his team on a great win.

"Goals change games, and getting the 3 second half goals to put the game away was great," he said. "Greg Klopfer was our man of the match, and Ryan Hahn obviously had a great day. Jerry DeChance was huge in the back, and T. J. Mazza once again was very solid in the middle."

C. Chadburn leads lady Spartans

By John Shramek
Sports Editor

Courtney Chadburn netted four goals for the Lady Spartans soccer team as it defeated Lyndon State College 6-0 at Alumni Field on Saturday. The Spartans improved to 4-3 overall on the season and 1-0 in North Atlantic Conference play.

Chadburn set the pace early for the Spartans when she scored just over two minutes into the game on a turnover she had forced in Lyndon's backfield.

She tacked on her second goal nine minutes later on an assist from Emma Deis. Then, she knocked in her hat-trick goal with ten minutes left in the first half.

"I was just looking to put the shot on goal, by giving myself or my teammates an opportunity to finish," Chadburn said. "When shots are put on goal, anything can happen."

The Spartans didn't lose any of their momentum during the second half.

Maria Arnot notched her second goal of the season with a shot from the 18 yard line.

The Spartans continued to pressure Lyndon with their offense, and in the 62nd minute, Chadburn broke Lyndon's spirits with her fourth goal.

"Courtney is such an awesome player. Every time she gets the ball I know that it's going to go in. She finishes every time," said Kelly Gerken.

Chadburn is more modest, though.

"To be honest, I don't keep track of my goals or stats," Chadburn said when asked if she had ever scored four goals before. "What is most important to me is if we win the game no matter if I score or not."

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMER

Kirstin Holmgren, (6) and Brandy Whitefight for the ball against Lyndon State College on Sept. 20.

Gerken gave the Hornets one final swat as she scored the first goal of her collegiate career in the 84th minute of play.

"I was so happy that I scored," Gerken said. "I kept shooting and trying to get one the whole game and so I told myself to focus and finish the ball, and that's what I did."

Chadburn believes that this win will be a catalyst for the Spartans as they head into their next NAC games.

"It was important for us to get our first NAC victory especially at home in front of a great crowd of alumni, parents, and friends," she said. "This win sets the tone for our next two conference games against Thomas and Maine Farmington next weekend."

Field hockey team rolling

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMER

Stephanie Paproski fires a shot against Daniel Webster on Sept. 21.

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

Castleton field hockey capped off homecoming weekend with a weeklong winning streak, improving to a 7-2 record. The Spartan team began its conference play, downing Lasell College by six. Most impressively, though, Castleton closed out the celebratory week with three shutouts.

On Sunday, the Spartans put in three quick goals against Daniel Webster, two of which Trish Fellows scored. Castleton proceeded to do everything right on defense, and kept the ball out of their own net. The midfield play was anchored by Molly Fraher, playing a stupendous back and forth game. Trish Watson and Heather Brock also played a tight defense during the week.

"We have high expectations for this season. We have a lot of hard teams ahead of us, but it will be a good test for the post-season," said Brock.

The Spartans led by four at the half, and continued their dominance during the second half of play. All three goalies on the roster were able to make it into play, as well as some unfamiliar faces. Stephanie Paproski, a freshmen forward, scored her first goal as a Spartan against Daniel Webster.

"I was very ecstatic I got to play, it was a really good experience and I look forward to the rest of the season," Paproski said.

The heavy surge of offense has been a factor in the winning streak, but the consistent defense was a just as big. The Spartans have outscored their opponents 33-8 in the past six matches, and goaltender Trisha Clark has stood on her head for the first half of the season.

"The goal is to improve on the goals we score. The top teams in the league have a big differential between the goals they score, and the goals they allow," head coach Tammy Landon said. "We want to peak later in the season, and carry it into the postseason with us."

The Spartans are now 5-1 at home, and will hit the road for six games. Castleton will return home on October 18 to play Thomas College, and again on the 25 to end the season against Maine Farmington.

Wood shoots 77 at Williams Invitational

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

The Spartan golf team recently competed in the Williams Invitational, hosted at Williams College. Cam Wood led Castleton with a 77 each day, followed by Ryan Debois who shot a 79 the first day and a 78 the second day.

"I played well, but I had a few bad holes. Overall, I was somewhat happy, but there's always room for improvement," Debois said.

Castleton began their season in Saratoga Springs playing at the Tim Brown Invitational. Seventh-ranked Skidmore College dominated all the opponents in the field, but for the Spartan golfers, age played no factor. Castleton placed 6 out of 12 teams, and the youth of Castleton looked promising for matches down the road.

Michael Krahn and Wood, both freshmen, found themselves in the top three at tournaments end. Krahn tied for 10 place, shooting a 75 the first day and a 74 the second round. Wood swung the clubs well too, shooting a 76 first round, and a 78 on the second day.

The Spartan golf squad returned to the Vermont area to attend the Duke Nelson Invitational, placing 14 out of 22 teams. The Middlebury course was polluted with rainy weather. Wood persevered through the weather, though, and placed first for the Spartans. He shot a 78 during the first round of play, and finished out with a 74 on the second day. Wood tied for 18 place, as the rest of the Spartans would place 73 or higher.

"I used to be the type of golfer that used to look down on myself. I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well, but at the same time that attitude doesn't help. You have to take it one shot at a time," Wood said prior to the matches.

Castleton will swing the clubs again when they play in the USM Fall Clasic in South Portland, Maine.

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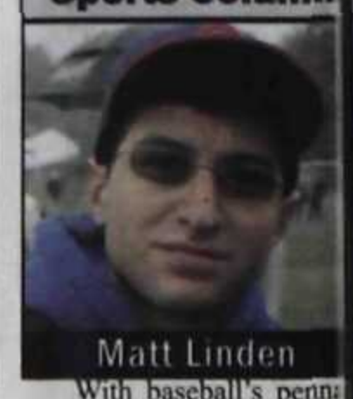
Sports Column



Matt Linden

With baseball's penn race approaching the fin line, we could witness mu ple playoff spots decided the final day of the seas The New York Mets are the midst of taking anoth nosedive in both the NL E and wildcard races. Man Ramirez has given CPR the Dodgers' season, and t Tampa Bay Rays are closi in on capturing the Americ League East from the Bost Red Sox.

October is in the air, and can't wait for the excitem and emotion of the postse son, especially one witho the Yankees.

Most of the playoff bert have been decided in t American League. T Angels clinched their four AL West title in five yea behind record-breaking clo er Francisco Rodriguez's saves, while both the Sox a Rays have secured winni either the AL East or t Wildcard. It is still hard believe that Tampa Bay finally a playoff team after decade of sitting in t American League's bas ment.

In the Central division, t Chicago White Sox lead t Minnesota Twins by mo than two games throu Sunday heading into important three-game seri between the two Minnesota.

Despite losing power hitt Carlos Quentin for the reg lar season (broken wrist Chicago sports a dependab pitching staff with the exper ence of Mark Buehrle to g along with young arms Jo Danks and 16-game winn Gavin Floyd. The Twins hav plenty of firepower in th rotation with hard-throwin southpaw Francisco Lirian and can produce runs at wi thanks to MVP candida Justin Morneau, but th White Sox are the better tea from top to bottom an should hold on to win th division.

You have to feel great f Cubs fans after their tea clinched the National Leagu Central within the same wee its ace, Carlos Zambran threw a no-hitter in his fir start back from an injure rotator cuff. This team hon estly looks like the favorite t win its first World Serie since Henry Ford introduce the world to the Model Could this be the year th 100 years of misery and co lapse is erased in the Nort Side of Chicago?

The Cubbies have tim before answering that ques tion and can relax until th playoffs, while the rest of th league is fighting just to joi them.

The Phillies have bee rolling as of late and own slight advantage over th Mets in the NL East. It i doubtful New York will over take Philly in what would b a reverse of last season, bu they lead Milwaukee an Houston for the Wildcar spot. This would be th opportune time for the Met to capitalize and make th playoffs, considering th Brewers have been in a funk since the surprising firing o manager Ned Yost and th Astros have not been th same since Hurricane Ik forced the team out o Houston.

But, we are talking abou the Mets, who might have the worst bullpen in baseball and continue to break the hearts of their fans with late-game blunders.

And finally, the Los Angeles Dodgers are within striking distance of clinching the NL West. Without taking away from the wonderful job Joe Torre has done managing this team, the decision to trade for Manny Ramirez was brilliant and is practically the reason why they will be a playoff team. Manny has only been with L.A. for 50 games, but is batting .400 with 16 home runs and 49 RBI wearing Dodger blue. Even though he played most of the year in the American League, Manny deserves to win the NL MVP hands down.

Bold Prediction of the week: The Mets will edge out the Brew Crew for the Wildcard, hopefully.

THE SPARTAN

October 17, 2008 Castleton State College Student Newspaper www.castletonspartan.com

INSIDE

NEWS

Living the life on Lake Bomoseen

Page 4

Doggie Style :
Shaaro strikes a pose

Page 7

A&E

Do you doodle?

SPORTS

Rugby team is undefeated

Page 8

OPINION

Barack Obama:
Please don't die.

Page 2

NEXT ISSUE

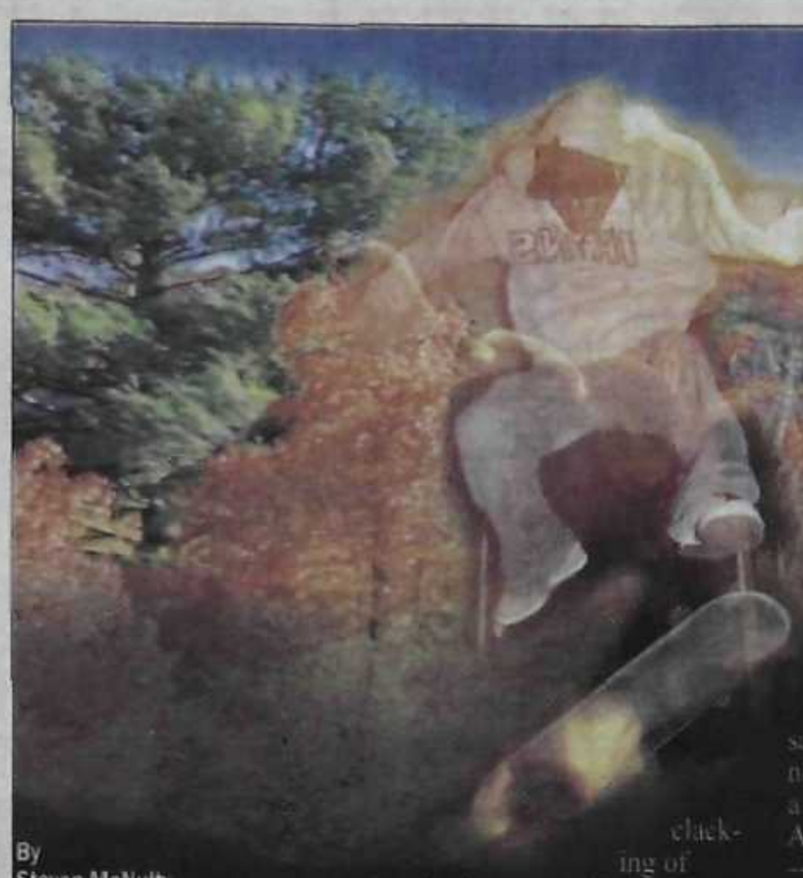
Hubbardton raid revisited

INDEX

Editorial..... PAGE 2
News.....PAGE 3- 4
A&E..... PAGE 5
Front and Back... PAGE 6
On Campus..... PAGE 7
Sports..... PAGE 8

Contact us at thespartan@castleton.edu or ext. 6067

Stereotypes be damned



By Steven McNulty
Spartan Staff

It was mid-afternoon on a typical Thursday when a sidewalk full of students parted like the Red Sea. Walking to and from class, each person assumed their respective positions on either side of the concrete walkway, making room for the wave of rebellion that came crashing through.

First came the rapid clicking of wheels over cracks in the concrete. Then, the sound of whooshing air as the rebel sped downhill toward Leavenworth Hall. And just as fast as he had come into sight, the skateboarder had cut through the crowd like a knife, and was gone.

The rebel was Matt Gasparetti, a freshman at Castleton and devout skateboarder. His hair is self-described as a "shaggy mess" and his clothes are two sizes too big. He enjoys sleeping until the very last minute, and says that his alarm clock is not as bright as it used to be, a result of constant abuse. And he loves skateboarding — anytime, anywhere.

On this Thursday he decides to speed to class, weaving through unassuming students as if they were moving pylons in a skateboarder's obstacle course.

What's the rush?

"A little air in my face gives me a morning lift, man. Plus, I get to class a little quicker. Gives me some time to have a cigarette," Gasparetti said while flinging his finished butt to the ground. "They take the edge off."

There are stereotypes aplenty generally applied to young people like Gasparetti. Too often skateboarders are referred to as punks, non-conformists, dangers to society and of course, rebels. But how different are they from the average college student, if there is such a thing?

"I don't see how riding on a piece of wood with four wheels makes me any more of a nuisance than any other college student," said Gasparetti, angered by the mention of such a claim. "I mean, I'm always getting weird looks. It's like people are disgusted that I'm skateboarding. The thing is, I just don't give a shit, man. Nothing's gonna stop me from skating, you know?"

A typical boarder?

A day in the life of a skateboarder is not at all as nonconforming as their critics may believe. Take for instance the typical day of one skateboarder on campus. This 22-year-old senior will be referred to as his simple yet anonymous alias, Moe.

Moe drives to class in a beat-up sedan that is clearly

Continued on page 6.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT [illegible]

Who's really abusing booze?

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on proposals to lower the drinking age to 18.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving claims data shows that an "estimated 25,000 lives have been saved by the 21 drinking age." Using data collected by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, MADD says that the 60 percent drop in fatalities from 1982 to 2006 involving persons 18 to 20 years old proves the point.

Choose Responsibility, a group hoping to drop the drinking age back to 18, counters that with its own data from a National Highway Safety Administration study that found "the largest number of alcohol- related traffic fatalities occurred among 21-year-olds followed by 22- and 23-year-olds. Twice as many 21-year-olds as 18-year-olds died," which supports the assertion that the 21 law doesn't reduce the accidents it postpones them, the group claims.

MADD sites age demographics and says when there are more people in that age bracket the numbers go up and when the population of that age demographic falls so does the number of fatalities.

Choose Responsibility says that other factors have not been given credit for having a more "dramatic" impact on lower fatalities. Safer cars with airbags, higher awareness of the consequences of DWI, designated drivers, and "more vigorous law enforcement."

Who is crashing while drunk?

Data from the Governor's Highway Safety Program of Vermont shows that over a 10-year period, drivers who had crashed and were charged with driving under the influence dropped from 320 statewide in 1995 to 49 in 2004

In 1995 seven drivers age 15-17, 40 more age 18-20, and 48 age 21- 24 were charged with DUI after a crash. The majority of drivers who were charged with driving under the influence after a crash that year were not under age, but from the older adult population. One hundred four drivers were 25-34 years of age, while 77 were 35-44 and finally there were 44 who were 45 years old and above.

Ten years later, the data shows a tie between the 25-34-year-olds and the 45 plus crowd. Each had a total of 12 crashes that resulted in a DUI, followed by the 35-44 age group with 9 accidents, and 21-24-year-olds with eight. Coming in with the lowest number of DUI charges stemming from a crash were the 18-20-year-olds with five and the 15-17 year-olds with just one.

Currently in Vermont, a driver who is arrested for DUI must attend the CRASH program for their first or second offence. Counseling is also mandatory with the second offence. On the third offence, the operator faces a lifetime suspension of their license.

From July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008 a total of 3,167 drivers were mandated to take the CRASH course as a condition of their DUI charge. Nine percent of those were age 17 to 20 while 21 percent were in the 21 to 25 age range and the remaining 70 percent were 26 or over with the oldest being 83 years old.

Continued on page 6. . .

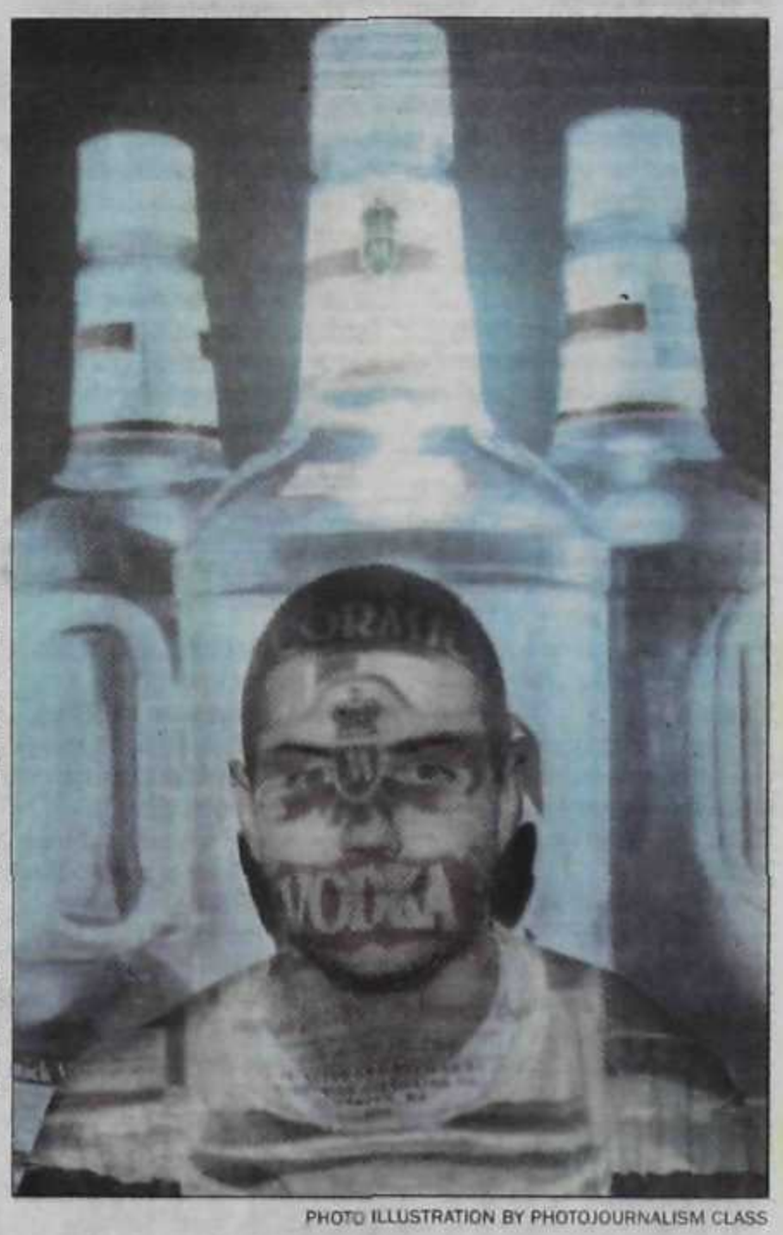


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHOTOJOURNALISM CLASS

Castleton cops catch campus vandal, then release him

PHOTO BY WYATT ALDISIO

John Petrovitsis' car sits vandalized behind public safety.

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

The eyes and ears of Castleton's public safety officers helped play a crucial role in capturing a local car vandal over the October break.

The vandal, a non-student whose name has not been released by the police, broke into several vehicles in the early morning hours of Oct. 5, gaining access to the cars by shattering their windows in an attempt to pocket any valuables lying inside.

Public safety officers noticed a suspicious vehicle on campus and recorded its license plate number earlier that evening.

Officers later heard unusually large "pop" noises from around campus and notified the Castleton town police, who then tracked down and arrested the vandal with the aide of the same license plate number.

"If it wasn't for my officers, that person would have gone on to cause thousands of dollars more in damage," Castleton Director of Public Safety Bob Godlewski said.

Godlweski said the vandal began a spree of break-ins that night at Finius T. Flubberbusters restaurant in Hampton, N.Y. He then headed east, hitting cars in Fair Haven before being detained in Castleton.

"I have to give huge kudos to my officers," Godlewski said. "It tells me that they're out doing their job."

After obtaining a search warrant, local police seized nearly all of the items stolen from the back of the vandal's car with hopes of returning them to their rightful owners.

The person in question has yet to be charged with a crime and was released from police custody. Since incidents occurred in both New York and Vermont, further investigation is necessary before prosecution can begin.

"There's still some (stolen) property that needs to be identified before moving forward," Castleton Police Chief Bruce Sherwin said. "We're trying to put together a complete case."

But not every victim was robbed that night.

Castleton freshman John Petrovitsis received a phone call from public safety shortly after 4 a.m. informing him that his black Volkswagen GTI had its passenger-side windows smashed out.

"I was too tired to process

Continued on page 6. . .

A simple plea for gay rights

I met a gay man today.

Yes, you read the words correctly. G-A-Y.

One of my many jobs is at a salon/spa in Rutland, which happened to be the location of our acquaintance.

Now, before you have a chance to say it, let me: "Oh, so typical! A gay man at a spa...so un-masculine, so, cliché!" Well I beat you to it, so now you can't make the joke...

I met a gay man, at our spa, and he was getting a facial.

We'll refer to him as John. John's HUSBAND bought him the gift certificate (as he does every so often on a continual basis, I was informed). He tells me they are visiting from out of town and he's decided to try a new place.

I comment on how thoughtful it was for his husband to pamper him, to which John replies, "I'm the domestic one, he'd better!"

Joking aside, you might guess where I'm going with this, however you might be wrong. The focus is not about the adventures that an openly gay man had at our salon (although, he did say the facial was fabulous).

As a tool, I'd like to use this situation in comparison to the hundreds of women who walk in and out of our doors on a daily basis.

It's very common for our women clients to leave, beaming about the relaxing service they've just received as a gift from her husband. "How nice," we all say, "that you're so well taken care of!" And she'll smile, her wedding ring sparkling. And most of the time, we can tell (or at least hope) that she's genuinely happy.

I don't think it's really about the massage, or the facial at that point (although for the time being, she's preoccupied). She loves the fact that she's in love, and her significant other knows her guilty pleasures (be it pedicures or something more personal) and perpetuates them.

And yes, you're probably laughing, because perpetual spa treatments must be glorious, right?

We assume she's in love, and we know that she's married (I mean, look at that rock!). And that's the point. Look at the ring finger on her left hand, and immediately, you know her status. She'll even tell stories of how the ring was picked, if asked.

She'll never have to fight for her right to a legal marriage; one recognized openly by everyone. She's had it all along.

Our conversation continues, and I ask John, "Where were you two married", guessing they are legitimately married considering the terminology he used (husband). "Which state?" I add.

His face tightens slightly; sighing and scoffing simultaneously. He replies, "We're not. It's been 16 years. I don't need a piece of paper to know I'm in love, and we're committed."

Wow, I think, and agree.

"We do have a domestic partnership," he explains, but it's not recognized everywhere.

Two grown men, completely comfortable with their sexuality, have been in love and together for 16 years to date. But I don't see a ring. But then again, maybe I didn't even look.

Hopefully, by now, you see my point. What is marriage?

To my dismay, the Merriam-Webster dictionary is (APPARENTLY) religiously inclined.

1 a (1): the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law (2): the state of being united to a person of the same-sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage.

I can only assume, that for the sake of their sponsors, they must differentiate. I move on, to dictionary.com.

1. The social institution under which a man and woman establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments, religious ceremonies, etc.

Enough!

We chat a little more, John and I. As he's said, he's in town visiting, and I ask where he's from. He doesn't tell me where he's currently from, but rather, explains that they are in transition — moving to Georgia.

We begin to talk briefly about Massachusetts and California (gay-marriage is legal in both places).

He mentions that Georgia is terrible when it comes to gay-rights. I then ask why they are moving. He responds, that his husband wants to be closer to his mother. It's just the two of them left, explains John, and they've already had a scare that they might lose her.

This ultimately means that he's chosen to move to a state that in 2004, banned gay-marriage, and in 2006 upheld the amendments, despite violations in state law regarding the ban.

Please re-read the last paragraph.

Re-count those 16 years and everything in between. Tell me that selflessness is not infused in this relationship. Tell me that we aren't talking about a man who is so entirely committed to (loving) another human being (albeit, a man) that he's chosen to sacrifice his rights to marriage, in order to support 100%, the one he loves.

And now I must ask. When do 'straight' individuals have to make a decision like this? ("Oh, yeah, sorry, can't move to Utah, they don't marry straight couples there").

A man and woman, married; don't they have it made? There are no limitations or restrictions on the validity of their marriage from place to place. They are no less a married couple in Atlanta than in Boston.

And now the golden question…

How many gay individuals have you seen (or heard) out there, petitioning for the rights of 'straight' marriage to be taken away?

- Shelby LaCroix

Calling for the blood of Barack Obama

Is a whisper still a whisper if a million mouths speak it at the same moment?

It's been a taboo subject to discuss openly since democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama began running for the highest seat in the land more than a year ago.

It's one of those topics that everyone has on their mind, whether they'll admit to it or not. I

ts context was raised a few times during the bloodied and brutal democratic primaries, but still remains one of those areas of discussion that, when said out loud, is generally silenced for fears of bringing on curses of otherworldly damnation.

But there have been whispers. Millions of them – and they all ask the same thing:

What if Barack Obama is assassinated?

When those words are uttered aloud, many people immediately get defensive and uneasy, as if even thinking about such a travesty feeds the concept enough to potentially will it into reality.

And you know what? They're right. And here's why.

In recent weeks, as the U.S. economy took a suicidal plunge through a Wall St. sidewalk, republican presidential candidate John McCain has seen his polling numbers take an equally fatal dive.

With McCain's campaign on the ropes, he resorted to the tried and true political method straight of Karl Rove's playbook: fear.

McCain and Palin campaign rallies have turned into something of a pitchfork-wielding lynch mob as of late. The overwhelming anger of some McCain supporters, who have been practically screaming for Obama's blood at recent campaign events, stands as a sickly reminder of just how easy it is to stoke the flames of fear in people.

When it became clear that his polling numbers were headed steadily south, McCain began launching misleading – some outright lying — attack advertisements linking Obama to former 1960's radical and Weather Underground member Bill Ayers (who is now a college professor).

At recent campaign events, members of the McCain campaign began addressing Obama by his middle name, Hussein, in blatant attempt to tap into the post-9/11 fears and prejudices that still harbor in the minds of many Americans.

In the process of casting Obama off as a mysterious person with a funny name and links to "domestic terrorists," the McCain campaign has created an angry slew of individuals who are literally calling for Obama's head on a stick.

Shouts of "terrorist!," "he's a communist!," and "kill him!" have started sprouting up at McCain rallies when Obama's name is mentioned.

Last week, McCain actually had to step in as Obama's defense.

During a campaign stop, it became clear that the beast McCain created had become bigger than he was, as audience members admitted to being "scared" of Obama because "he's an Arab."

McCain called Obama a decent family man who was – can you believe it? —not an Arab, but rather someone he happened to disagree with on certain issues.

McCain asked the crowd to be respectful, to which i responded by booing McCai in protest as he stood flailin his rigamortisly robotic arm and stuttered through an expla nation.

Those familiar with Mar Shelly's Frankenstein can not the similarities between th doctor's creature and McCain' own propaganda creation. Both Dr. Frankenstein and John McCain created something they thought they could con trol. Something that they, ir their own eyes at least, did fo the better of society.

But in the process they creat ed something that far exceede their expectations, as their cre ations became too powerful toc quickly, leaving their makers grasping for a control that they would never again regain.

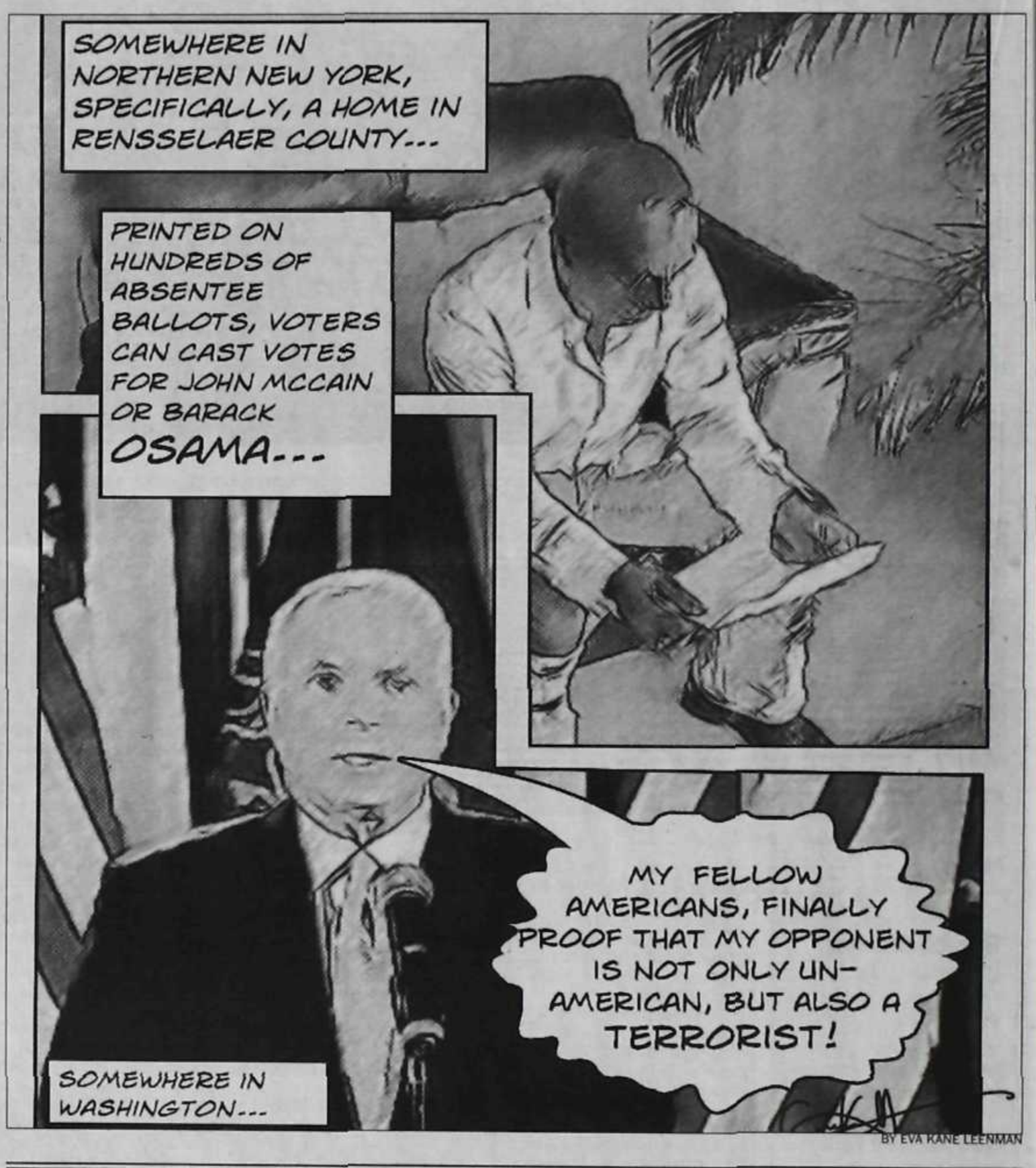
One can only wonder how far John McCain's creature will choose to go.

King . . . JFK . . . Bobby . . . Lennon . . .

Obama?

Let's hope not.

-Terry Badman


SOMEWHERE IN NORTHERN NEW YORK, SPECIFICALLY, A HOME IN RENSSELAER COUNTY...
PRINTED ON HUNDREDS OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, VOTERS CAN CAST VOTES FOR JOHN MCCAIN OR BARACK OSAMA...
MY FELLOW AMERICANS, FINALLY PROOF THAT MY OPPONENT IS NOT ONLY UN-AMERICAN, BUT ALSO A TERRORIST!
SOMEWHERE IN WASHINGTON...

BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

What they're saying on www.CastletonSpartan.com

Response to: "Screwed for the sake of football"

As a student (paying my own tuition), I do not look forward to seeing the first football game.Why didn't they put that money towards lowering the tuition for VT residents, or is CSC unaware that Vermont has the highest in-state tuition rates in the country? Or maybe they could have renovated Leavenworth hall. We also pride ourselves as being a "Green School." Why weren't solar panels or other energy saving systems installed into the buildings to conserve $$$$$ spent on heating oil? I will be expecting higher tuition fees for the 09-10 school year.

-- Student

Responsesto: "Castleton campus of whiners"

Welcome to the world created by your liberal PC minions.There seems to be a prevailing attitude in this country now of everybody is entitled to everything, and you don't have to work for success b/c the government will give it to you by taking it from someone else who has created their own success.I can tell you that in real life success comes from hard work and not a handout from somebody else. This is the real world and instead of complaining people need to move forward and stop looking for someone or something to blame.

--Thomas Looney ('95)

Hmmm...interesting take. Because in my experience, it's more often that complainers are the children of conservative parents who've raised them to be self-absorbed.

In my town, it's the liberals who are active in their community and do most of the volunteer work. Their children have an awareness that extends beyond themselves. It's the conservatives (not all of them) that do most of the complaining and do nothing to help.

They don't have time for anything that doesn't concern the acquisition of personal wealth.

As a result, they're the ones with children who have a sense of entitlement. They expect someone else will do the work, and when it's not done to their satisfaction, they look to blame others (namely the liberals) for everything, leaving them angry and bitter. Sound familiar, Mr. Looney?

But since we're talking about CSC, I'd like to defend the current group of students here. This semester I have encountered nothing but polite, gracious, and appreciative students who are well spoken and enthusiastic.

I should know - I work in IT Services and have met with and helped many of them. I have not yet had an unpleasant encounter. Even those with complaints have been polite and understanding. Sure, there are always exceptions - and unfortunately they can overshadow the positives. We shouldn't judge everyone by the actions of a few.

-- Jonathan Czar

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CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Got something to say?
Post comments, complaints, or suggestions on our messageboard @
1787
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Students thirsty for politics

By Shelby LaCroix
Spartan Staff

Excitement was high, expectations were vast.

The much-anticipated Biden/Palin vice presidential debate took place on Oct. 2, as members of the Castleton community checked out Pub Night, which aired the political debate on the flat TV screens of the Spartan Room.

Thirsty Thursday, as Castleton likes to call it, was atypical. Not only was the theme of the evening "Vote '08," there were cupcakes to celebrate the anticipation of what's to come in America.

On the steps of Huden, stood Castleton student Mike Costello. When asked of his expectations for the night's events, Costello appeared interested and curious.

"I don't know, what topics are they talking about?" he asked.

Nine o'clock came with the debate quickly approaching.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden and his republican counterpart Sarah Palin attempted to stand their ground Thursday night, as the debate kicked into full swing.

With many Americans questioning Palin's legitimacy, this occasion provided a chance for her to step up to the plate.

Palin, although visibly confident in her efforts, had some difficulty staying on topic. She hit many of the McCain campaign "talking points" while, at times, avoiding the question asked.

She spoke instead, on a topic she felt more competent approaching. One student found the moderator's responses to her vagueness amusing.

"I expected to hear a lot of talk — talking loud and saying nothing," CSC sophomore Wyatt Andrews said. "The moderator was pretty good about calling the candidates when they were doing that. It was both hilarious and reassuring."

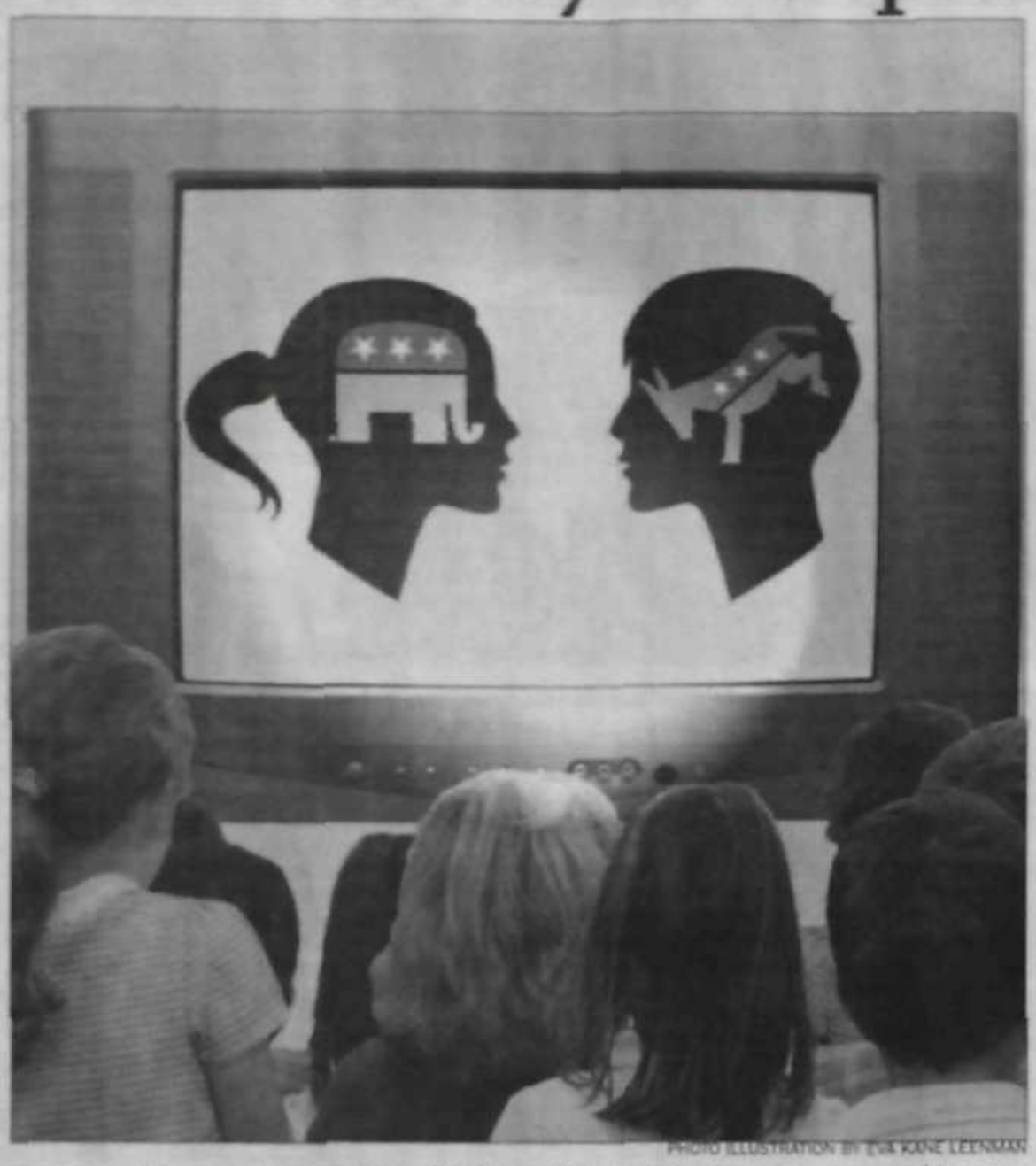


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIK KANE LEHMAN

The candidates' conflicting stances on taxes also rose a few eyebrows.

When referring to the tax breaks Obama intends to give to the middle class, Biden rejected the terminology "re-distribution of wealth" (as Palin had phrased it). Rather, Biden suggested. "We call it fairness." He backed his statements with well-rehearsed figures and statistics.

When the topic of same-sex couples entered into the equation, Palin's body language said it all.

Visibly uncomfortable with the topic, she reinforced that she is "tolerant." Though, when pressed, she admitted that any circumstance encroaching upon the traditional man-and-woman marriage would not be acceptable.

When asked why she plans to vote, Castleton student Briana Gagne (also a member of the History and Politics club) spoke of a theme both political parties tried to hit at throughout the evening.

"Things that can change need to change, especially things having to do with people's rights," she said. "I think it's one of those things that shouldn't matter what side you're on."

Palin made it very clear that in her opinion (and McCain's) that the war in Iraq was not finished, nor will it end when the next president takes office.

From this topic, spawned another: one of an economical matter.

In response to Palin's statements about war, Biden anticipated their "eliminating wasteful spending" in hopes of salvaging the economy and aiding the middle class.

At one point during the debate, one of Palin's "folksy" remarks sent the room into hysterics. Amidst the laughter, Katelyn Green joked.

"This is what we get for making Alaska a state!" she proclaimed.

Aside from suggestive facial expressions and minor attitude, the two candidates smiled through clenched jaws and bitten tongues.

With their opinions differing on many subjects, with the exception of their mutual "love for Israel," their opportunity for rebuttal was invaluable.

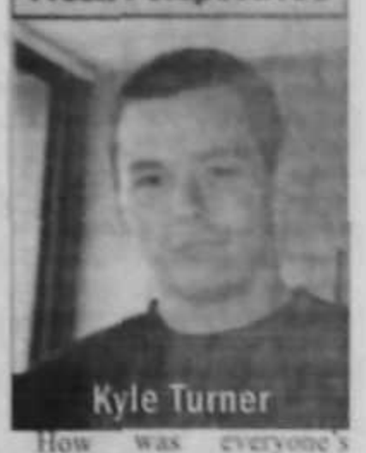
When asked why he plans to vote, Wyatt Andrews pondered briefly.

"Well, why not vote? " he asked. "I hope that maybe my vote will make a difference. Even though the Electoral College pretty much guarantees that my vote won't make a difference.

"But I'm an optimist by nature, and therefore, I'm going to vote," he added.

"It takes like five minutes!"

Fresh Perspectives



Kyle Turner

How was everyone's October break?

It was good to see the family, friends and my girlfriend back hom, but I found myself wanting to come back here.

When I got back, all of the guys in our suite went to Huden for dinner and talked about how our breaks were. Truth be told, it was kind of nice to chill out with them again because I missed the guys.

Anyways, I heard about a girl who goes here who was in a very bad car accident. My thoughts and prayers go out to her and I wish her a speedy recovery from her injuries.

Now, I'm not stabbing anyone here, but some of us probably haven't made the best decisions since we got here in August. I urge some of you to make some better decisions and think before you act.

It's also time to start deciding who you want running the country. Honestly I think no matter what you are (democrat or republican), no one wants Sarah Palin in office.

From both what I have heard and what I know, everyone thinks she is well – dumb. I could not agree more. She thinks dinosaurs were around 4,000 years ago. Holy crap something is wrong with this lady's brain! Even Matt Damon thinks something's wrong with her!

So be smart about whom you vote for because, believe it or not, it could come down to you.

I was in English class a couple weeks ago and one of my classmates had his cell phone out on the desk and it was just sitting there. Well, the English teacher saw it and completely freaked out about the phone being out.

I understand that we are not supposed to use our phones, but come on. If it is out on the desk, then it's not that big of a deal.

After class we all picked on him, but we all also took his side and told him that we believe that he should not have gotten in trouble for just having his phone out on the desk to keep track of what time it was.

Now that the semester is just about half over, some of you are probably realizing that you need to get quite a few soundings events in. Don't worry; you're not alone, as most of us are in the same boat with you. Make sure that you get all six of them done before the end of the fall semester.

Continue to have fun, but also get all of your work finished.Have a good week everyone and make sure to let the people you care about the most; know that you really care about them.

Students learn to speak spanish in the basement of Leavenworth.

CSC offering free Spanish lessons

By Sarah Kenney
Spartan Staff

It's four o' clock on a Tuesday afternoon, and children are giggling and spilling out into the hallways in the basement of Castleton's Leavenworth Hall.

A Spanish professor from the college is playing a dice game with kids. "Seis brazos" she says, which is quickly followed by a choir of children's voices echoing it back to her.

She then tells them that the translation is "six arms." The kids laugh about how their creature will look like a spider of sorts.

Children from the surrounding community have been coming to Castleton to take Spanish lessons — free of charge. The program that just started this semester has been in the works for some time. The Spanish department believes that the program is beneficial for the children as well as the college students.

"I expect the community children will learn the language, be interested in the cultures, and hopefully they'll want more of this," Spanish department coordinator Ana Alexander said. "Our students will be gaining experience as teachers."

The elementary school children have been coming for lessons on Tuesday afternoons since the beginning of the semester. The idea started last fall and has been moving towards starting this September.

"The Spanish Lessons for Children" program started off small, but have been growing from Castleton Elementary and Fair Haven to reach an even bigger audience that also includes Poultney and Rutland.

The instructor of the program is Floribeth Jimenez. Jimenez is a Spanish education major being mentored by Claudio Eduardo Pinto. The program is completely free and offered to any child who has the ability to speak.

The public school systems in the area do not offer any Spanish-speaking curriculum for elementary school children. Ana Alexander, Claudio Eduardo Pinto, and the rest of the Spanish Department at Castleton State College decided to collaborate their efforts energies and time into a program that educates children how to speak a second language.

"They do not learn as adults do," Alexander said, adding that other methods are implemented such as games using balls, dices, and drawing in order to teach the children.

"The faculty, students and children will benefit," she said.

-The kids are as young as 4 and-a-half and go up to age 9. Shakti Parker, a 9 year-old stood outside of the communication/Spanish lounge to count to ten, hoping to show that she could count in Spanish.

To become an active part of this program or if you have any interest in the Spanish department or club please contact Ana Alexander via e-mail.

The Spanish club also hosts meetings every Thursday in the Spanish/ communications lounge in Leavenworth Hall during N-period from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Speaker speaks out against sexual offenders

By Jessica Lawrenson
Spartan Staff

On Sept. 24, the Casella Fine Arts Center became quiet as Steve Thompson began his speech on the sensitive topic of sexual assault.

Steve Thompson has spent 28 years researching rapes and other forms of sexual assault with survivors. During these years, he visited jails and prisons to talk to sexual predators. He also wrote a book called No More Fear.

All of his work started when he was teaching a women's self-defense class at a college to help women from being sexually assaulted. Unfortunately, one of his students was assaulted during the course, to which he then decided to dedicate his life to preventing sexual assaults.

When starting out, Thompson had asked everyone to think of four women in their town. Then he had announced that one of those four women had likely been sexually assaulted, or will be in her lifetime.

This shocked everyone, as students said they thought of friends that were sitting right next to them or close family members.

"This is not just a women's issue," Thompson said, adding that men needed to also step up and help stop things like this from happening.

While going into how men can help protect women from this tragedy Thompson reveals what he calls the Zebra Mentality.

The Zebra Mentality had 10 facts included. Main facts that were stressed in the speech included that one in four women will be sexually assaulted, how men can help, watch out for stalking even if it doesn't seem like someone is, false reporting is rare, why people do not admit when they are raped, and the difference between "nice guys" and "good guys." "Never ignore stalking," Thompson said.

It is common for people to be stalked but there are different ways that we may not consider stalking. Cell phones are very common in this day and age but do we really think about how many text messages we get from one person a day.

If someone is sending you frequent text messages asking questions along the lines of what you're doing and expressing emotions, then they may be stalking you.

If somebody is always waiting for you for example outside of your dorm waiting for you to go to class it may be stalking. Commonly stalkers also send gifts anonymously. You know when you are being stalked usually because it is really about how you feel about this person constantly communicating and wanting to be around you.

Thompson emphasized on the difference between "nice guys" and "good guys." "Nice guys" are usually the ones who sexually assault women. The "nice guy" has to always have all of the attention on him with his friends looking up to him all of the time, most of the time sees women as objects not people, they are usually insecure about themselves even if they do not show it, and they do not handle rejection well.

"Good guys" on the other hand are usually the average laid-back guys who are not pushy about anything and clarify if a woman is saying yes or no to sex. These guys are not really known for violence or crime. They are usually the ones trying to help stop the rapes from happening.

"Nice guys" have their acts planned out before they occur. In his plan he usually has figured out who the victim will be, where he is going to do it, and how he is going to do it.

During the act, alcohol and other drugs are usually involved. Usually he will push the drinks on to her even if she doesn't want them. Sometimes these drinks have double shots so the woman will drink what she normally does but is consuming twice as much alcohol.

During all of this the "nice guy" is drinking something light like a beer or even just a soda. Once the act has begun the victim wants to resist but she just freezes from the shock of what is happening and is in disbelief, feels powerless and immobilized.

After it is all over the man who has just sexually assaulted blames it on the victim saying that she wanted it, which is why many women never admit to being raped.

Steve Thompson delivered his message to Castleton students in a serious yet comical way to ease the tension. Thompson can be contacted via e-mail at thomp1sm@emich.edu or phone at 989-774-6677.

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A Non Trad's View

Susan Hernandez

I remember my kids saying that they had it. I remember a teacher telling me that my daughter had a serious case of it.

But hey, I didn't really think that I would come down with it. Wouldn't I, the person who loves classes and gets excited about assignments, be immune to it?

It shocked me a bit to realize that the answer is no. I am not immune and worst yet, I think I may have it.

It began a couple weeks ago. The first symptom I noticed was that I had to force myself to focus on the lectures. I kept wondering how much longer I had to sit there. I found my brain wondering off to other things.

Secondly, I wondered how much work I could not do and still get a passing grade.

I nixed that idea very quickly.

The third symptom was a real shock. I found myself wondering which classes I could skip without affecting my grade.

But that smacked of the same kind of unethical behavior I hated in my employees when they called in sick, even though they were healthy enough to go to the beach or a concert.

Recently I find that I keep putting off my homework until the absolute last minute. And I am a little resentful that my friends are going off on their motorcycles with out me.

I keep telling myself to forget it. Just get through it; after all it is the last semester. Next summer I can go with them. But I still feel like I am missing out on something.

I find I don't want to be in class, and my mind is already thinking ahead to what happens when this semester is over and I am done with my degree.

I call my friend, Michele, every Friday as I leave campus. It has become a ritual to leave her the official end of the week message.

It goes something like this; "Hey, it's me. We finished one more week and we only have X more weeks to go."

We are in the count down.

As mid-term quickly approaches, I am getting more excited and the symptoms are becoming more pronounced.

I can no longer deny it. I must accept the diagnosis. I have been infected with senioritis and it has nothing to do with my age.

CSC nursing alum to the rescue

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY STEVE MCNULTY

Susan Farell agreed to come out of retirement to chair the nursing department.

Anne Smeglin had chaired the nursing program at Castleton since 2006, but in the spring of 2008 she decided to step down.

"I felt a strong desire to return to teaching roll as opposed to the administration roll," she explained.

The college launched a search committee to find her replacement. The new chair was selected, but unfortunately the chosen one chose another college.

That left the department without a chair going into a stressful recertification year.

Every eight years, the National League for Nursing and the Vermont State Board of Nursing visits the college and assesses the program. The process requires that the program generate a self-assessment of itself.

With the chosen candidate out and time an enemy, school officials were left scrambling.

Faculty members Susan Hogan and Janis Jacobs said it was important to have someone in the lead position, especially with the impending recertification process before them. Both had been involved in the search and agreed that there was not enough time to undertake another one.

Faced with the loss of Smeglin as the chair, and a candidate who turned the school down, eyes quickly turned to longtime department member Susan Farrell, who had been in semi-retirement for the last two years.

"We didn't have time to do another search for a leader from outside it had to come from inside the department," Farrell said in a recent interview. "I talked it over with my husband and we agreed that at least for one year I'd come out of retirement and go full time," she said.

Farrell had held the position previously and had been through the recertification process before.

The whole department was relieved when Farrell stepped up.

Smeglin said that while she did not feel pressured to remain as the chair, she was "delighted when Sue came forward to take on the leadership role."

Hogan said that Farrell's range of knowledge from government to the basic foundations of nursing made her the ideal choice to take on the leadership role.

Hogan also said that it had always been a pleasure working with Farrell because she had always been "approachable and sensitive to faculty members."

Farrell had graduated in 1969 from the Castleton nursing program and received her masters in education from CSC in 1977. She held her first position in 1974 and over the years she filled many positions within the department, including serving as chair for 10 years. Farrell had also sat on the Vermont Board of Nursing for nine years, chairing it for eight of those years.

While all agreed she was clearly the best choice to assume the position, her part time status was a problem.

The college has a policy that only full-time faculty can become "department chair." This meant that Farrell could not hold the title.

The nursing faculty came up with a solution.

"Even though my roll is identical, we just gave it a new title, director of nursing education," Farrell said.

The idea was supported by the administration and on July 21 Farrell officially became the new director.

Smeglin said that Farrell's return was "symbolic of the loyalty that people have for this program."

"I am just one symbol of a lot of people," Farrell responded. "Overall everyone is so dedicated to the students and the program."

Maryanne McDunna, the second-year coordinator agrees. She said the passion for the program comes from the reward of watching the students "grow and blossom."

"You don't do it for the money, you do it for the love," she added with a chuckle.

Is Coke out to kill you?

By Jamis Lott
Spartan Staff

Do you know what you're drinking?

Sanjukta Ghosh, a Castleton communication and woman's studies professor, unveiled her in depth look into the Coca-Cola Company on Sept. 25 in the Jeffords Center Auditorium. The soundings event, titled "Pop Goes History," detailed the extreme effects the company has had on America and the rest of the world.

In response to some of her students' edging demands, Ghosh, unveiled her perspectives into what she called "the most admired trademark in the world," Coca-Cola. She is convinced that not only is Coke an inseparable part of American culture, it's an intrinsic hand in the American way of life.

Ghosh delved into the history of Coke, detailing how it has done so well for itself and also described how the company has altered people's existences. Coke is credited for producing the female ideal in advertising, she said, portraying all the things that make for a good and proper woman.

Also the common depiction of Santa Claus is credited to a holiday advertisement created by the Coca-Cola Company. During World War II, Coke had factories built on the front lines in Europe for the troops. In a time when sugar ration cuts put other soda companies out of business, Coke was shipping crates of Coke bottles to Hitler and German troops.

In accordance to the findings

of the presentation, Ghosh said that Coke can be found in 200 countries and is "present on all seven Continents, including Antarctica." Because the Coke emblem is recognized by 94 percent of the world's population, it has earned the reputation of being the most recognized brand in the world.

It takes nine liters of water to produce one liter of Coke in the factories. In countries like India where there are such factories, there is a great water shortage that hurts both the environment as well as the people living there. The factories dispel hazardous waste, while Coke allegedly continues to violate human rights in its factories.

In addition, the Coca-Cola Company has made 176 human rights violations in various countries and has repeated similar cases despite promising to change its policies. In regions like India, environmental and human rights protests are under way in an attempt to polish up the way Coke does business.

Ghosh assures that her presentation was not intended to stop people from drinking Coke or deter them from doing so. It was meant to be a way for students to "critically examine what they do everyday," she said. Especially with what people consume and what they wear, whom they are supporting, and how they affect the world in the process.

For more insight on groups opposing Coke, visit www.killercoke.org.

Lovin' lake livin'

By Tom Conzo
Contributing Writer

After a few years of living in dorms, some college upperclassmen look to partake in a new style of living, a life of relaxation and with the beauty of living lakeside.

Some students choose to stay close to campus within walking distance of their classes. But for others, there's the call of Lake Bomoseen, a beautiful and peaceful lake not far from campus.

Three miles from the college, the shore of the lake has become one of Castleton's most popular off-campus living areas. Students flock to apartments and houses for a more enjoyable and peaceful year. Unlike living on campus, the lake students say it "offers a more relaxing environment for students to concentrate on their studies."

The quiet and laid back atmosphere seems to do something to keep students happy.

"I feel as if doing my work is easier to get done living on the lake," said junior Jay Bascom, a first-year lakeside resident. "There aren't as many people around to distract me as living in the dorms."

In the early months of first semester, Bomoseen residents have access to water activities, heart pounding cliff jumps, good quality fishing, and exquisite sunsets.

"Every night I look out my back deck and see a gorgeous sunset," said sophomore Alex Williams.

Bomoseen has always been known for its one of a kind sunsets and clean surroundings.

"The beautiful appearance is a good way for students to relieve their stress from school studies," Williams said.

Along with fun activities, the lake is also very affordable for a college student's budget. Overall expenses can actually be cheaper then living in the dorms depending on where you live, students said. With a decent loan and a steady income, students can enjoy an overwhelming experience.

"One thing about living on the lake that struck me was how affordable the living is," said Lydia Jenks, first-year resident.

Students living the lake life can also enjoy some fine dining at places like the Lakehouse Restaurant, The Trak-In, and Crystal Beach Market and deli. Among all the great spots, the Crystal Market seems to be the most popular and affordable for the college lifestyle. It is only open Friday to Sunday, but has lots of fans."

"We must be the hung-over spot," said employee Eddie Carbonaro, with a big smile. "Most customers that we get on the weekends are college students."

Crystal Market is located at the end of North Road and Route 30. The market has all the necessities for a college student. The best reviews were for the pizza and sandwiches —including the famous turkey, bacon and ranch sub.

"Living on the lake just puts me in a great mood and motivates me to do what I need to get done," said Geoffrey Walker, a junior at Castleton.

Act II offers students a chance to teach

By Courtney Bonoyer
Spartan Staff

Many Castleton students have probably seen the flyers or read emails about something called ACT II.

Some may know what ACT II is, but for those who don't, it's a program that allows people to get their teaching license in one year. It's a very intense year and the program is for those who already have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

People of all ages with various degrees of working experience take part in the program, as even many students enrolled in the program are fresh out of college. Others have been working for 20 or 30 years in their respective fields.

Students in the program can get their teaching license in elementary education, art, music, Spanish, or theater arts for kindergarten through twelfth grade. They can also get a license to teach English, math, science, social studies, or physical education for grades seven through twelve.

The program for everyone except physical education candidates, involves students taking classes during the summer and fall and student teaching in the spring. Physical education candidates take classes in summer, fall and spring and then do their student teaching the following fall.

All students finish up with 36 credits, which puts them 12 to 18 credits away from getting their masters degree, which people can also get with ACT II.

Harry Chaucer, director of ACT II at Castleton says that CSC "doesn't take shortcuts" when it comes the program and "students come out well prepared because they experience the whole school year."

They really get a chance to experience the life of a teacher, in service days and all, he said.

So why are people taking part in ACT II?

Dawn Saunders, who is currently enrolled in the program, teaches part-time at CSC but feels part time isn't enough and wants to teach full-time. She is enrolled to teach secondary education social studies.

Saunders has her PhD in economics, with a concentration in U.S. economics history. She is enjoying the program so far and feels that what she is learning is making her a better teacher at CSC.

"I'm learning how students learn and seeing things with fresh eyes," she said.

Saunders also likes seeing the different teaching styles and watching teachers interact with students. She feels teaching high school students will be much different than teaching college students.

"High school students are less jaded and have more energy," she said.

While she is enjoying the experience, Saunders notes that the amount of work is challenging and it's hard juggling work and school.

How are things after ACT II?

Margaret Forti, who took part in the program last year, says she is currently a substitute teacher at Burr and Burton Academy and Mount Anthony Union High School. "(I) know several people who are gainfully employed after the program," Forti said.

Her favorite part was spending every day with students and felt it was easy to forget she wasn't a student. She did her student teaching at Otter Valley Union High School and felt it was "a valuable experience."

Her advice to anyone who is considering the program is to talk to someone who is doing ACT II and see what it is like ahead of time.

Matthew Cox who also took part in the program last year was a journalist for more than 25 years when he felt it was time for a career change. He is now licensed to be an English teacher, however, has been unable to get a job.

Cox has gone to over 30 job interviews but has been told repeatedly that he didn't get the job due to a lack of education experience. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, people who teach core classes like English, have to meet certain standards to be considered, what they call "highly qualified teachers," and Cox has met those standards. "It's frustrating to be considered a highly qualified teacher and still not be able to get a job," Cox said.

Cox also said that out of the 12 people who were enrolled in the program at the same time he was, only four have found full-time teaching jobs. And out of those four, two were recent graduates and one had been a para-educator.

"It's difficult for newcomers who are adults," Cox said, also noting that there is more competition for English teachers than for math or science teachers.

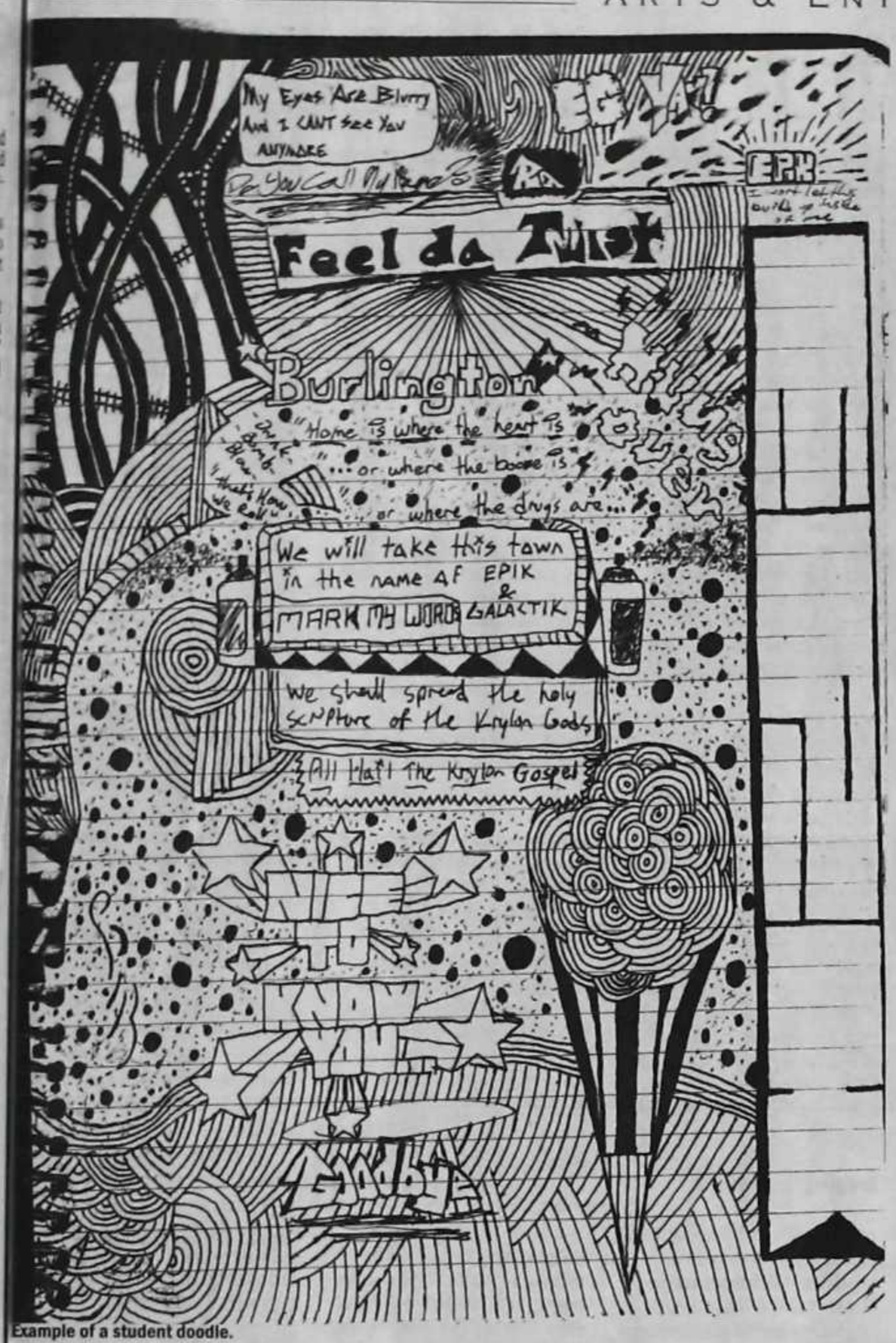
Cox recently picked up a one-day substitute-teaching job in South Burlington, but offered up some advice to future hopeful educators.

"Be prepared to go two years without an income because sometimes a license isn't enough," he said.

PHOTO BY STEVE MCNULTY

Charles O'connor and Sean McIntyre show off their skills.

THE POWER OF THE DOODLE!


My Eyes Are Blurry And I CANT See You ANYMORE
Feel da Twist
Burlington
"Home is where the heart is"
"...or where the booze is"
"...or where the drugs are..."
We will take this town in the name of EPIK & MARK MY WORDS GALACTIK
We shall spread the holy scripture of the Krylon Gods
All Hail the Krylon Gospel
EPIK
Example of a student doodle.

By Jamis Iott
Spartan Staff

It makes no difference what major you are, if you do regular art or if you're an apt student. For one reason or another, some people just need to doodle.

There are accounts of people who have never taken an art class at the college level, yet miraculously these same people may produce complex sketches at random with a general ease.

"It's very non-threatening to doodlers because there's no expectation of what you need to come out with," Betsy Hubner, an art education professor, said.

How and where doodling arises, as well as the chosen content of each sketch, remains subjective to each student.

What seems to induce doodling are classes that are "boring," but doodles even appear in classes that students find "catch my attention," says Sara McMillan.

"The classes I doodle in are the classes I most like," she said.

The classes that students seem to have trouble doodling in are those that take constant stream of notes.

In some classes, students don't think to even doodle because there's "no room" for it.

It seems the good qualities of doodling overrule the bad, for both students and teachers. Some students will utilize doodles in a lesson to serve as a visual aid.

In other classes, a student will use doodling as a means of escaping sub consciously.

Like a nervous habit, stundents need to do something with their hands. This keeps the hands in action.

As a surprise to me, not many professors on campus take offense to students partaking in drawing while lecturing, and students say they haven't been disciplined for doodling since high school.

Teachers think that doodling on some levels can stimulate the memory process. Some teachers even admire a good drawing.

Although in some way doodling brings people to their own private worlds and away from their lessons, students still zone out in some classes without the aid of a pen.

Some people have doodled since they could write, working in a dream like way. People use it as an escape. Tool for focus and "an escape."

I have no bias opinion about doodles, their pro's and con's, how they function, how they surface.

The data I have obtained from students and professors, I feel, speaks for itself.

Entertainment In Review

Night of the Demons

Film Review By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

Night of the Demons is a campy 80's movie with ridiculous gore and terrible acting. The story line is this; a group of teens go to an old abandon funeral parlor to have a Halloween party but the house is haunted by evil spirits and one by one the teenagers get possessed by evil demons.

Sound familiar? Yeah, because It's an almost complete knock off of Evil Dead! Just replace the old funeral parlor with an old cabin and there you go! Evil Dead was 100 times better than this cinetrash. Even the name is a rip off of Night of the Living Dead, another movie which is 100 times better. It could also be said that they ripped off the Italian movie Demoni which translates as Demons. So, the story line of Evil Dead + the title of Night of the Living Dead and Demons = Night of the Demons, one of the worst movies ever made.

Don't let the review quotes fool you, it is not "a carnival house of horror!"-Creature Features Movie Guide. It's more like one of those really cheap carnivals that promises you really cool rides and fun games but all you get is a rusty roller coaster that goes in circles and when you play a game (after spending $8 to play) all you get as a prize is a ratty old stuffed animal that looks like it's been hanging out in the gutter.

It might look really cool but it's not! Just like cigarettes. NOTD (put in a L and you NOTLD=Night of the Living Dead!) is just like cigarettes. Doing it once or twice might not be too bad but once you get into it, you'll slowly start to die from the inside. Cigarette ads lie to you and say it's so cool to smoke. This movie advertisement lied to me, this movie is not cool. Another lie is that one of the monsters which is featured on the DVD box wasn't even in the movie! The actor was, but the make up wasn't that good in the movie!

Some of the dialogue is also quite excellent, such as the line, "Can we please leave now? (No one says anything) I guess not." Shakespeare couldn't write better dialogue than that. You can really tell when the scriptwriters take their time to put out a finely tuned heap of rusty celluloid.

One of my favorite scenes is the random musical moment. Unfortunately there was no singing but there was a very bizarre interpretive dance sequence. One of the characters was possessed and she just started to dance, well it actually looked like convulsions to me. Since she was a demon who was dancing, I guess an undead dancer possessed her. Why else would she be dancing instead of eating the guy's brains out (who was just standing there watching it)?

Final verdict? One of the worst movies ever made, or one of the best if you're really sick and twisted. Night of the Demons is a terrible movie and should be watched by all because of its awesome awfulness. Just to make matters even better, Night of the Demons is being remade! The only way this could be a good remake is that they didn't make it at all. Put the movie in a coffin, nail it shut, bury it and forget it. I'm sorry ma'm but there's nothing else we can do. We have to pull the plug. Oh please do.

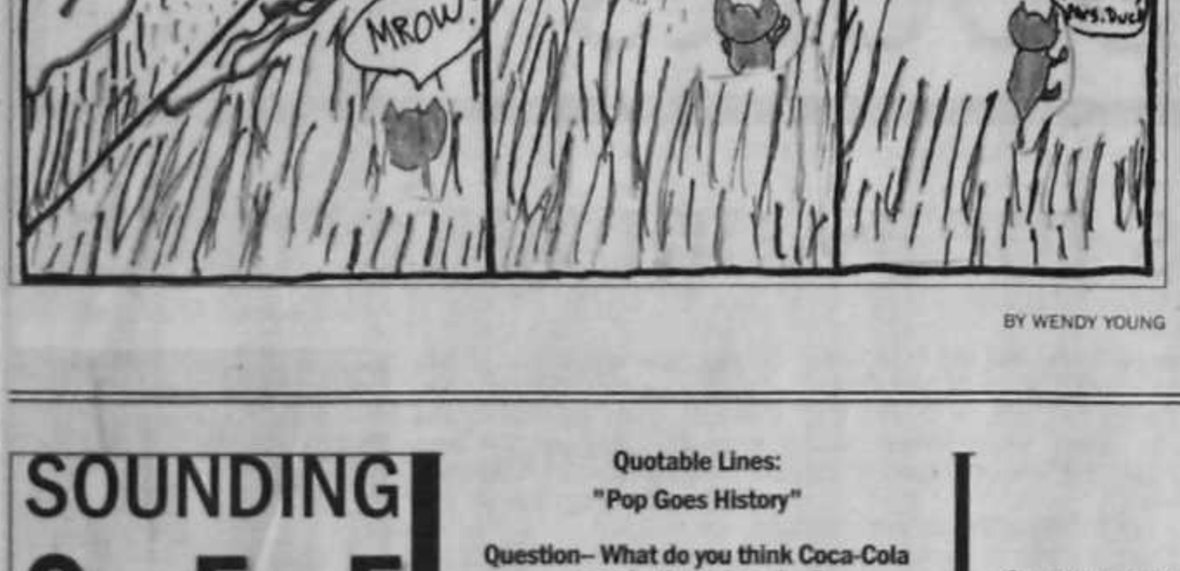
Bloodstone Hunter

Book Review by
Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

Tyler St. Claire owns a successful business called Bloodstone Inc. Along with her partners Jubal, Isaac, and Noelle, Tyler makes the jewelry that their customers buy. The only secret Tyler has kept from her close friends is the fact that she's psychic.

Bloodstone by Gwen Hunter is a novel of suspense. There is romance, and finding where you belong. And uncovering secrets. For when Tyler was younger, her brother Davie disappeared for a few years. And even now that he's been back for more years than he'd been missing, he hasn't told her why. Tyler may have to find out why, because Davie disappeared again. But this time, there was evidence that he was kidnapped. And Tyler knows that Davie would never leave his daughter, Jane, by herself. Now Tyler, with the help of a cop who is also psychic, must find her brother before the kidnappers kill him.

Bloodstone is a good novel. While there is much danger, at points it also seems like a light read. Classified as a thriller, Bloodstone lives up to that and more. Five out of five stars.



BY WENDY YOUNG

No diving allowed

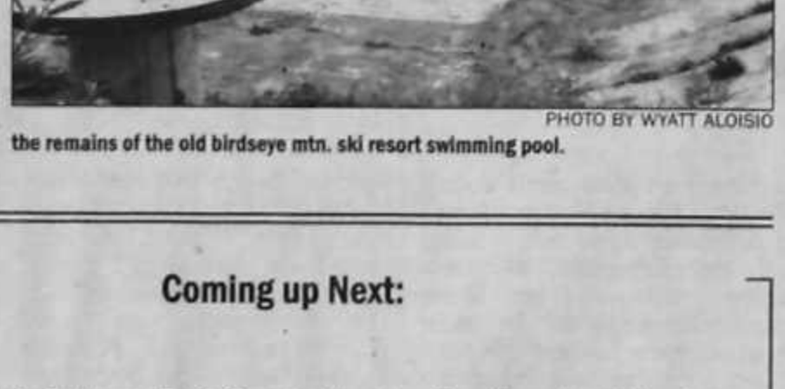


PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO
the remains of the old birdseye mtn. ski resort swimming pool.

SOUNDING OFF

EVENT COUNTDOWN
7 LEFT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Please contact a Soundings instructor to share your thoughts.

Quotable Lines:
"Pop Goes History"

Question– What do you think Coca-Cola reveals about America?

"I am not sure Coke reveals so much about America but instead sets a depiction or false image of what America is. For example, supporting Nazi Germany was most definitely not a reflection of what America is or strives to be. Upon reflection on the lecture I have learned things I never knew about Coca-Cola and am disgusted; it is unsettling to know something that "represents" American lifestyle can also be an image of everything wrong in the world."
– Michael Sumner

Coming up Next:

Oct. 16th, 3:30 & 7:00 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, film Once in Afghanistan
If you have ever wondered what it would be like to join the Peace Corps or to help out in a country with a culture quite unlike the U.S. culture, this film will give you a look at what it might be like. Faced everything from cultural differences to physical challenges, the women in this film had to learn to adapt in order to be successful.

Oct. 23rd, 12:30 pm, Jeffords Lecture Hall, "Leadership: Inside and Out"
CSC's own Dr. Terry Bergen talks about leaders--who is one, how to know when you need to be one, and how to know when to defer to others. Are you a natural-born leader? Come compare your personal assessment to the program information.

Maxin' Chillaxin'

Terry Badman

This brew's for you

I love beer.

I love sitting on the wooden deck outside my apartment on cool autumn evenings, as maple leaves of various red-orange hues float drunkenly to the ground around me.

I sit back, strumming a little Neil Young or Jackson Browne on my Alvarez cutaway acoustic guitar.

In between songs, I happily sip from a tall "Life is Good" glass, often filled to the brim with a local bitter malt stout or Belgian-style ale.

Nature, tunes, and brews – heavenly simplicity at its best.

Now, the fact that I, a lowly college student, enjoy a nice glass of beer every now and again probably doesn't come as a shock to any of you.

Booze and college kids go together like ham and cheese or Pam and Tommy.

But what may surprise you is the fact that I hate – let me stress, LOATHE – cheap, crappy, watered-down, fizzy, pissy-looking beer.

I won't name names, as college kids tend to be terribly protective of their favorite brews, despite how horridly heinous they may be.

But one thing is certain: people need to expand their tastes.

How would you like to go through life knowing only the taste of a McDonald's cheeseburger, never wanting to try anything new or hating everything new that you tried?

Sounds stupid, sure, but lots of people get hopelessly and stubbornly stuck in their routines.

The problem is, though, that as college students, you shouldn't have already found the one thing in life that personifies perfection in your world.

How can you consciously sit there and tell me Budweiser is the ONLY beer you'll drink?

Do you know how naïve that sounds?

So here's my challenge – my plea – to those of you LEGAL DRINKERS who are hell-bent on sticking to a game you've already beaten a million times:

Try a new brew.

Not just any new brew. Switching from Colt 45 to Private Stock does not count as moving up the alcoholic hierarchy.

Try something COMPLETELY different.

For example, if all you've been drinking is "light" beer, why not try a nice dark stout instead?

And again, Guinness is not the only stout in the world, and it's certainly not the best.

The best way to try something legitimately new is to snag a brew you've never even heard of before.

Many people have a hard time making the switch from light to dark at first, but like any skill worth its weight in YouTube videos, practice makes perfect.

And yes, beer tasting, or rather, developing a taste and an appreciation for alcohol as something other than a means of getting wasted, is indeed a skill.

It takes a significant amount of time, effort, and patience – as in sip slowly, don't chug – before you really begin to master it.

But of all the skills I've ever had to work on, learning to appreciate a fine bottle of booze is near the top of my personal favorites (right behind biting my nails).

Now, I'm not encouraging underage drinking, and I'm not trying to appeal to a particularly pathetic college stereotype that only reads stories about "titties and beer."

I am, however, hoping some of you will find the will and the maturity to stand up and try something new responsibly while you're still young enough to get away with it.

Now if you'll excuse me, I hear an icy cold IPA calling my name from the fridge.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHOTOJOURNALISM CLASS

Bullets or booze?

Continued from page 1 . . .

CSC student Andrew Cormier believes that drunk-driving rules should be tougher – regardless of your age.

"There shouldn't be a drinking age. If you get a DUI, you lose your license," he said.

But we can vote, die for our country …

Student Brittany Balla feels strongly that the drinking age should be dropped to 18.

"Some 18-year-olds are more intelligent and responsible than the average 25-year-old so why should they be punished? At 18 you can do everything else like… carry a gun, buy porn and cigarettes, why not that (alcohol)?" she said.

After countless attempts, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders sent back a brief e-mail to several questions essentially validating Balla's thoughts.

"As you may know, for quite some time the legal drinking age in the United States has been 21 years of age. Gradually, during the 1960s and the 1970s, many states lowered the drinking age, until federal legislation enacted in 1984 threatened to withhold federal highway funding for any state that did not raise the age back to 21 years," he wrote. "This arbitrary age makes little sense. We allow 18-year olds to vote, to marry, to sign contracts and we even send them to fight overseas. Yet somehow these same 18-year olds are not mature enough to drink alcohol."

Vermont Rep. Michael Obuchoski (D-Windham) said that he wasn't going to take up time with the issue now, but if it came up for vote "considering the information available" he would "support the lowering of the drinking age."

If fact, he and Representative Bill Johnson, (R-Essex-Caledonia-Orleans) co-sponsored a resolution that called "on the federal government to forgive the state the transportation penalty if the state allowed the military under 21 to drink."

Obuchoski also said that if 18-20 year-olds turned out strong for the vote and "put the state on notice that they were doing so in support of a lower drinking age, that would be a powerful political statement."

To get the question on the ballot requires an action of the General Assembly. Residents would have to petition the select boards on a town-by-town basis.

Wolk agrees with Obuchoski that if the youngest voters organized they would have a lot of clout.

"More young people voted in the last election than in previous elections … there was a long time during the last 20 years or so after 18 year olds got the right to vote where their numbers were less than the regular population. If there was a draft I think you would see a lot more 18 to 20 year-olds," he said.

He spoke of the '60s when youths were motivated by race, poverty, and the war to demand a voice in government. When there was no longer a draft "so much of the youthful altruism subsided." He went on further and spoke with pride about the CSC students who have been returning to activism and community service in greater numbers than other colleges.

Although a majority of students interviewed believe strongly that the drinking age should drop to 18, it's certainly not unanimous. Ashley, who asked not to have her last name used, is 22 now and did not drink in high school. Her first experience with alcohol was when she was a freshman on another campus.

"No matter how low it is, people younger will always try to get it," she said.

Skateboarders smarter than you think

Continued from page 1 . . .

he'll bring his skateboard and "shred it up a little" before or after class. He wears baggy pants, large hooded sweatshirts and straight-brimmed hats. This is typical garb for Castleton students, but the skateboard in tow separates Moe from the rest.

"Sometimes I try not to carry my board into class," he said. "I just feel like some professors think boards should be left outside the classroom and they look down on you if you bring them in."

Funny thing is, Moe has close to a 3.7 GPA. Like student-athletes, he says he should be looked at as a student-skateboarder, emphasizing that the word "student" comes first. The bottom of his skateboard has stickers of a donkey, the Democratic Party's symbol, a faceless Buddha and a quote from one of America's most renowned, and fittingly, most non-conforming journalists in history, Hunter S. Thompson. The quote is pulled directly from Thompson's most popular work, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, and reads: "There he goes. One of God's own prototypes. A high-powered mutant of some kind never even considered for mass production. Too weird to live, and too rare to die."

A visit to Moe's house reveals more about this scholar-boarder. His two-storied house, which he shares with two other roommates, is littered with empty cans. They are everywhere.

It is a disgusting and gruesome scene, but not unlike a good number of other college student residences. There is an even distribution of Budweiser, Pabst Blue Ribbon, and Sparks cans decorating the countertops, window sills, and portions of the kitchen floor. The Sparks seems to be a fan favorite. It is an alcoholic infused energy drink, threatening a late-night heart attack with a morning hangover to boot.

"It's like Vitamin Water for skateboarders," said Moe's roommate, Fitchy. "You get a good energy lift, and a good buzz, and you're ready to skate. I think I'm a lot looser when I have a few. They say that the drunk driver never gets hurt in an accident. Well, neither does a buzzed boarder."

The coffee table, which sits in front of a big screen TV, is the resting spot for a number of different smoking devices. The occupants of this house clearly like a little rest and relaxation.

"We all do our work, man. School is definitely the priority, but that's basically just to make our parents happy. But when all is said and done, it's nice to ease our heads and play a little Tony Hawk," said Moe, batting intensely at a videogame remote with his thumbs.

Longing for the park

Another little bit about these young men — they love Castleton. All three roommates claim to have good grades, valuable relationships with professors, and lasting memories. They do not complain about parking and homework, but there is one thing that they have been wishing for forever: a skate park.

"I know that people get tired of us riding around the library and the theater, but where else are we supposed to go?" said Moe.

To the delight of everybody involved, good news is just around the bend. Bill Allen, dean of administration, said in an interview that a skate park should be completed by the fall semester of 2009 as part of a campus-wide makeover. It will go at the base of what is now the mini-snowboard park behind Morrill and Wheeler halls.

> *"I just dont give a shit, man."*
>
> Student skateboarder Matt Gasparetti on the stereotype often applied to skateboarders

"We are going to install a fenced-in sheet of concrete. That's all we know so far," said Allen. "I certainly don't know anything about skateboarding, so we are trying to get input from students on what features we might include."

The concrete area will be roughly 50 feet by 80 feet. As for the features, Gasparetti has some ideas.

"I think we should have some gnarly ramps, killer rails, and a couple of quarter pipes. That would just about do it for me," he said, visually constructing the new park in mere minutes.

Nick Bell, a recent transfer to UVM, says that a skate park on campus would be a huge addition.

"There's no skate park on UVM's campus right now, either," he said. "We drive about 15 minutes away to Essex where they have a nice park. Trust me, an accessible park will get a lot of use," stressed Bell.

For now the rebels remain, roaming free among the rest of the college community. It may be standard (or so we should hope) in American politics to have separation between church and state. There will be no such separation between school and skating.

Just one day after Gasparetti's ride to class, a fellow skateboarder, John White, tried his luck at some tricks just outside Calvin Coolidge Library. As professor Phil Lamy walked by, the boarder stopped him to talk about his recent reading of Jack Kerouac's "On The Road".

He wheeled his way around the professor, pulling off ollies and kick-flips as he sang Kerouac's praises. The professor, spinning in circles in an attempt to keep eye contact with the student, said that he had a great documentary about writers like Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg that he should watch.

The student said thanks, and just as fast as the professor had been stopped, he stood alone, watching the rebel as he kicked and pushed his way out of sight.

Cars vandalized, PS asks students to step up and talk

Continued from page 1 . . .

it," Petrovitsis said, adding that nothing inside was stolen. "I took everything (valuable) out the night before. I didn't want something like this to happen."

"There was glass everywhere," he said. "Even now, you can still hear glass grinding every time you move the seat forward."

Petrovitsis, whose car was parked in the observatory lot directly behind the public safety building, said public safety officers treated him well, but he was a little frustrated that his car was vandalized so close to their building.

"If someone is ballsy enough to break in (to a car) that close to public safety, I guess it doesn't really matter where I park," he said.

Castleton junior Molly Fraher, who faced a similar issue with vandalism and thievery last year, sent her condolences to the students hit over the break.

"It's a big pain in the ass," Fraher said. "I feel horrible for the kids that had it happen."

Fraher's Honda Passport and three other vehicles were broken into and robbed last December. All four cars were parked n the "Africa" lot near Fraher's off-campus house.

The thief, who remains anonymous, made off with a purse-full of credit cards and various other valuables — right in front of Fraher's house.

"All of the (car) owners were in that house that night and we never heard any of it," Fraher said. "That's what scares me."

Bob Godlewski acknowledged that problems of vandalism happen at every school and will likely never be fully preventable, but also pointed out that acts of vandalism have decreased by roughly fifty-percent since he took over public safety duties at Castleton.

In addition to several night-vision-equipped surveillance cameras now patrolling the "Africa" lot and elsewhere, Godlewski says there are plans to add even more cameras across campus. There are also times when as many as 10 public safety officers are patrolling campus at night, he said.

But even with increased security measures, Godlewski admits that offenders are still going to slip through the cracks at times.

Two days after police captured the Oct. 5 vandal, Castleton junior Melissa Pope's Ipod accessories and clothes were taken from her car parked in the resident lot in front of North House.

"I got back from work and was inside the dorms for maybe 20 minutes before I went back out to my car and noticed my phone charger lying on the ground," Pope said, adding that she always locked her car's doors.

There was no evidence of a break-in to Pope's car and the incident is considered unrelated to the events of Oct. 5.

"I just got it in June," Pope said, referring to her 2001 Honda Civic. "I was pissed."

Public safety is currently investigating the incident involving Pope's vehicle.

"I wish I could say it's never going to happen again, but I'm a realist," Godlweski said. "(Vandals) are never going to do this sort of thing when we're looking."

One of the biggest problems facing campus, he said, was that students simply don't speak up enough when problems occur, and that significant headway could be made in preventing similar occurrences if they did.

Godlewski originally hosted a regular "director's lunch" for students to attend and voice their safety concerns. But when students failed to show up, he decided to scrap it. He is, however, willing to restart the program if students are interested.

"I've got an open door policy. If you have a problem come in and talk to Bob," he said. "We've got 940 students on campus – why can't we all work together?"

"If I've got more eyes out there telling me what's going on, we're all going to do a better job," he said.

Inside Sports

Field hockey team finds the winning formula

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

After starting 2-4 in its first six road games, the Spartan field hockey team found redemption against Simmons College. The formula for the dominating victory was outshooting Simmons 28-4 and executing the shots being taken.

Carolyn Griggs took advantage of an offensive opportunity one minute into game play by striking a goal past the Simmons defense. Kayla Blank took her turn, putting a goal of her own in the net. Blank and Griggs continued the scoring party, each putting another one away before halftime. The second half proved to be no different, as Blank and Griggs both reached a hat trick.

Sarah Flore was in playmaker fashion against Simmons, assisting on three goals during the day. Megan Konowich was a defensive stand out, holding off the Simmons offensive attack. Konowich and Blank earned co-player of the game honors from coach Tammy Landon. The win lifted the Spartans to a 3-1 conference record and marked a hard-to-achieve milestone for the storming Castleton defense. The Spartan defensive core let in its first corner strike since the season opener, a feat usually hard to obtain.

"It shows our defense has been on its game, allowing few offensive pushes," Heather Brock said. "Corners are very demanding for defenders, and our defense has done a great job keeping the ball out of the net."

Earlier in the season, the Spartans began to falter when Nichols College snuck an overtime goal by Trisha Clark, who posted six second-half saves. Nichols beat the Spartans 3-2. The momentum would yet again be stripped away from the Spartans when Union College repeatedly tested Castleton's defensive play. Despite nine first-half saves and spectacular defense and midfield performances, the Spartans were unable to withstand the pressure Union brought offensively, and they fell with a score of 2-1.

In a game against Husson University, where the Spartan defense played just as consistently as it has proven to be game in and game out, the Spartan offense delivered a storm of shots. Husson found itself being outshot 17-6 at the end of the game, and fell victim to a pair of goals scored by Griggs. Castleton broke the two game losing streak and picked up its second conference win.

"Our defense has an amazing bond; we talk to each other on the field," said defender Trish Watson. "We read each other. We work well as a team. The defense will get the ball out of the circle and up to the midfielders. The midfielders will move the ball up to the forwards, and they get their shots on goal."

St. Joseph's College was anything but humble to Castleton as it surged past the defense and put away four second-half goals. Just when things were going right for Castleton, a two-goal lead going into halftime, the Spartans watched it slowly slip through their fingers. The first-half goals by Blank and Griggs were not enough to keep the lead, and Castleton suffered its first and only conference loss thus far.

Castleton travels to Skidmore College to round out its sixth game away from campus. The Spartans will return home and continue conference play when they host Thomas College.

"The losses were disappointing, but we learn from them," said midfielder Molly Fraher. "To play strong against a team like Skidmore will be interesting; we played them in a scrimmage before the season, so we will see the improvement we have made."

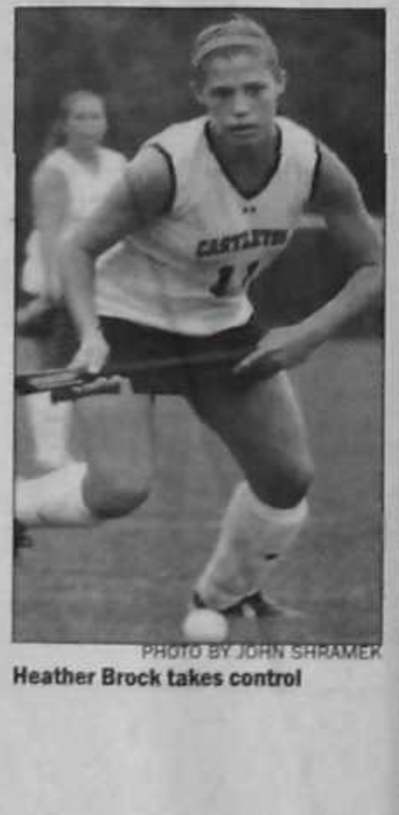


PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMER

Heather Brock takes control

The dog days of campus living

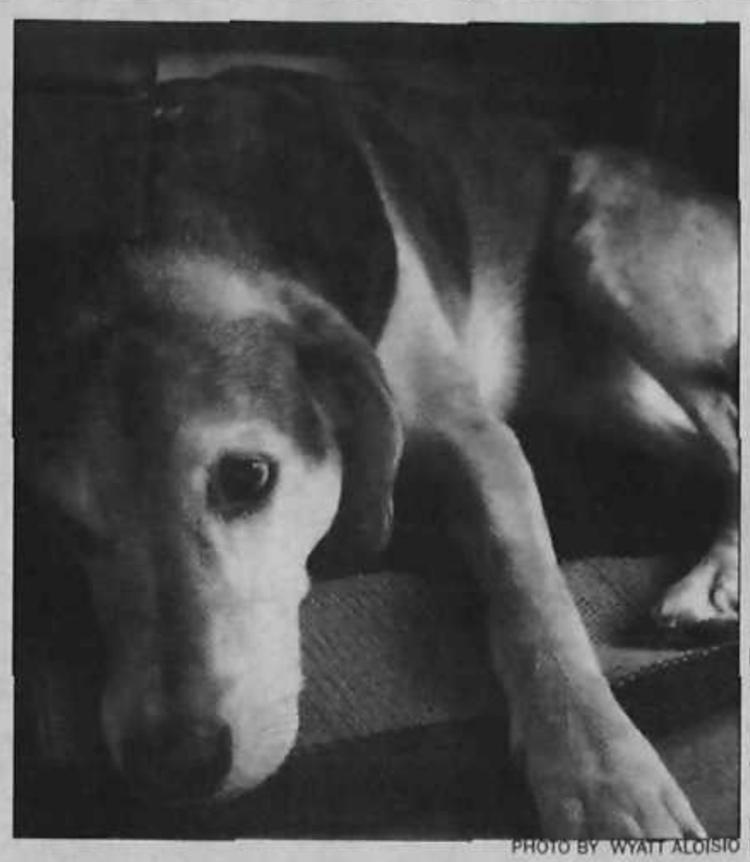


PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE

Left To right: Professor Sanjukta Ghosh's dog Shaaro Mayo. Students rehearse for Renegade Opera, a student directed play that opens this weekend. Adjuct communication professor Robert Wagneaux plays at Legends in Rutland. Sean McIntyre gets some air outside of Castleton hall.

PHOTO BY STEVE MCNULTY

PHOTO BY CHARLES SMITH

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question

How did you spender your October vacation

CHARLY KLAAS

I went to Massachusetts, I played some tennis and I slept a lot.

Grant Lawrence

I worked in the mailroom. I went deer hunting.. bow and arrow.

Eddie Carbonaro

Went to Atlantic City and won $200, I went to dinner with my family and I went to my nephew's flag football game.

KAITY GEORGE

I substitute teach at my high school.

MORGAN HAYES

I worked at a gymnastics gym.

Nice to meet:

Phillip Lamy

By Wendy Young

Professor Phillip Lamy teaches anthropology and sociology. Professor Lamy grew up in the 60's and says that that has been a big influence on his life. Professor Lamy was born and grew up in Salem, Massachusetts. There were eight children in his "very catholic" family. His mother was a teacher and his father was in the working class. Professor Lamy got married in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Why do you use music in your classes?
Music of the sixties was important to the times [and relates to the class material in most cases] and was an important influence on society. The music can catch the students interest. Music is a tool. "The arts—especially music for me—are not just subject to matters in themselves, but tools to teach history, society and culture."

Who are some of your heroes?
Louis Armstrong, John Lennon, Bob Dylan. Not just because they are musicians, but because they helped to influence their times.

What are some of your interests?
Religion and Music. I wrote a book "Millenium Rage" which is about religion, and based on my dissertation. [As for music] I play the drums.

What are some of the things you are involved in around campus?
I'm the advisor for Pub Night which takes place in the Spartan room. I'm also part of Third Places.

What exactly is Pub Night?
I think the drinking age should be lowered to 18. In college everyone drinks anyway. We wanted, rather than to ignore it to let them have a legal place to drink responsibly. But those students underage—though welcome to come in—will be carded if they try to get a drink.

What exactly is Third Places?
With the fact that we are losing community we wanted to create places for students to gather together. 'Third Place' actually refers to social places.
Third Place's projects include the building of the coffee cottage and the garden. They are working on creating outside classroom space and are putting finishing touches on the new Spartan room.

Changes aplenty in sports dept.

By John Adams
Contributing Writer

The changes over the last few months at Glenbrook Gymnasium have not been limited to its structure and layout.

The sports administration department has experienced significant faculty changes as well, with the addition of professors Matt Soroka and Kristen Murray. Soroka and Murray replaced Craig Paiement and Ryan Hedstrom, who each departed for different positions over the summer.

Paiement and Hedstrom came to Castleton in 2005-06 and 2006-07, respectively, looking to further develop the sports administration department. The new sports administration program, which went into affect the 2007-08 school year, focused more on fieldwork and internships while moving away from a science-based program. They also implemented new goals to compete with top regional sports administration departments, but more importantly they raised expectations of the students.

"We don't want to change too much," Soroka said. These guys have done a great job.

Soroka visited the campus while he was interviewing for the position last spring. He said he was impressed with the expectations of the students and the way they handled themselves. Soroka had been at the University of Minnesota finishing his doctorate degree prior to joining the Castleton faculty. He also mentioned his interest in the overall social environment of the campus, which happens to be his area of study, as an important reason why he came to Castleton.

"The interaction of administration and students doesn't happen anywhere else," he said.

But to make matters more complicated, Ryan Hedstrom, who was to be the new head of the program, left the department in July. Soroka said he had heard that Hedstrom may leave during the interview process. Nevertheless, he said he had been looking forward to working with Hedstrom and he said once he learned he was leaving it posed a bigger challenge to get to know the students at the same time as learning his way around the program.

Connie Wolfe, a senior and vice president of the Sports Administration Club, concurred with Soroka that this next semester or two will be a difficult time for the sports administration faculty and students.

"There was a relationship and trust between them (Paiement and Hedstrom) and all of us. I was surprised when Ryan left because this is my last and most important semester and it was like all that comfort was gone. I was definitely upset," Wolfe said.

Murray was brought on in July and comes from the Michigan State doctorate program, the same program that Hedstrom and Paiement had come from. She said that because she was close to and essentially mentored by Paiement and Hedstrom, she knew of the program here and that made her transition easier.

"My first question was 'How do we fill that position (that Hedstrom had left)?' But we were so fortunate to get her. She's the perfect fit," Soroka said of Murray.

Both Soroka and Murray said that there will be more focus in coming weeks and months on the relationship between the sports administration major and the surrounding community. Murray said she wants to get involved with area schools to focus on the development of youth athletics as well as train coaches properly to manage the youth leagues.

Soroka, who volunteers at the Rutland Creative Economy for Recreation, said he would like for the sports administration department and its students to be the top choice of those hosting instate athletic events g for assistance, especially in Rutland and the state's top-notch ski resorts.

We have a wealth of knowledge and information here with the students and we need to utilize it,i he said.

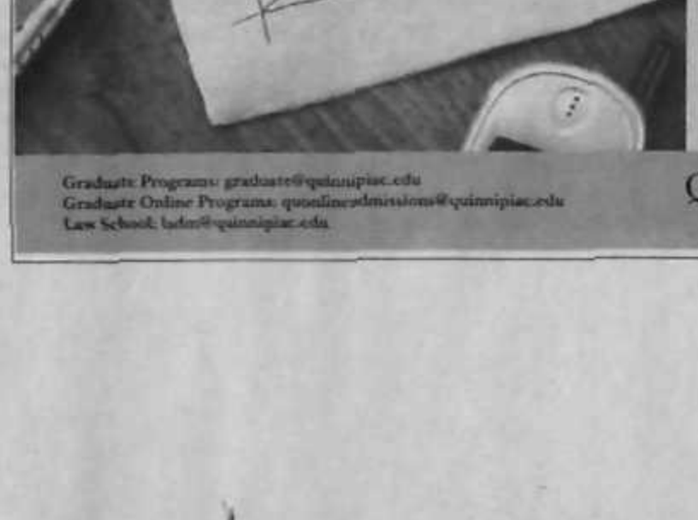
Murray agrees.

"I see us as a good fit because of our ideals and philosophies," Murray said of the association between Soroka and herself.

And despite a little uncertainty and sadness over the departure of Paiement and Hedstrom, students are embracing their new professors.

"I feel good about the program and where it is," Wolfe said. "I transferred back because of what Ryan and Craig had built. Matt and Kristen are both good fits and they seem to be in tune of what Ryan and Craig had intended as well as what students want and expect. I think the program and all the majors are in good shape."

THE ONLY THING GROWING FASTER THAN OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS IS OUR REPUTATION.



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Men's rugby still perfect through 5

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

The unrecognized sons of Castleton, otherwise known as the men's rugby team, have done nothing but dominate the opposition this season. The Spartans have battled their way through scrums and rucks in pursuit of a perfect season.

Three matches into the season, Castleton allowed its first try against when Colby Sawyer managed to find one of the few and far apart holes in the impressive Spartan defense. Those five points posted by Colby Sawyer stand alone in the points against column for Castleton rugby.

Playing with a perfect 4-0 record, with one regular season match left to play, Castleton has already earned the top playoff seed for the 2008 season. The Spartan team has mercilessly outscored its opponents 116-5, a nearly improbable scoring differential.

"We are definitely coming together as a team," said Sean Foster. "We're peaking at the right time."

Foster is one of two injured players on the team; Matt Varney joins him with a broken finger. Foster said the sideline plays a prominent role during each match, with water at the ready for the restless players during each of the few breaks per match.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAMES DAHLGARD

Members of the undefeated rugby team in a scrum during their game against SVC.

Castleton began its destruction of Division Four with an 18-0 win over Southern Vermont College. The team then cracked heads with Green Mountain College with a 34-0 shutout of its rival. Blood was finally drawn from the so-far perfect Castleton defense, as Colby Sawyer stole five from the Spartans. The deed would not go unpunished as Castleton was en route to a 20-5 victory. The Spartans made the best of its October break with a ruthless beat-down of Lyndon State 44-0.

A lot of the Spartans' momentum has been inspired by last year's semi-final letdown against UMass Dartmouth.

"The day we lost in the semi's, our goal was to win the Division Four championship," captain Eric Rothy said. "We have new confidence in ourselves, and a bunch of new guys. The older guys from last year have taken on a leadership role, and the younger guys have found their roles."

Rothy explained that every person on the team is a blood-brother; each player is there for the others on and off the field.

Long after the cleats have been hung up and the bruises have faded, the chemistry will be just as strong as it has always been between the scrum brethren.

Castleton will play host for the quarter finals and semi finals after its last regular season match against Champlain College.

With construction underway on the new Spartan Stadium, the post-season matches will most likely be located in Rutland. The mental focus has remained intact for the pitch warriors heading into the most crucial point of the season.

"Everyone is hurt in their own way," said Ben Gleason. "I usually just go focus on the game. There are only 80 minutes to be played. I have the rest of my life to worry about being injured."

Soccer teams strong in NAC play

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Spartan men's soccer team suffered its first North Atlantic Conference defeat at the hands of Husson University with a score of 1-0 Sunday, Oct. 12, in Maine.

The only goal of the game came in the 18th minute of play, when Jeff Truchon beat a Spartan defender and blasted a shot past keeper Mike Anthony.

Senior forward Ryan Hahn said that his Spartan team isn't convinced that Husson won the game.

"Credit to Husson, who played a great game, but I know that our team feels that we lost that game rather than they won it," Hahn said.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Jaime Moore looks for an open teammate against Mass.-Liberal Arts

Head coach John Werner agreed that his team didn't play their best.

"We did not play well in the first half, credit to Husson, but really turned it around in the second half," he said.

Anthony recorded seven saves in the loss for the 7-7 Spartans.

The day before, the Spartans kicked off their two-game trip to Maine with a 4-0 win against NAC opponent Maine Maritime.

The Spartans took offensive control early as Hahn scored in the 20th minute of play off of a pass from Greg Klopfer.

Nick Bellizzi, a defender, picked up his first collegiate goal in the 41st minute as he made a run from the backfield, received the ball from Chris Mulholland, and "buried it," according to Werner.

"It's exciting for him, for sure. He is such a hard-nosed defender that it was nice to see him get a goal himself," Werner said.

Josh Costa and Klopfer added goals of their own to the Spartan victory in the second half.

The Spartan team outshot the Mariners 30-7 in the game.

Werner was impressed with the way the game progressed.

"[Four different people scoring] illustrates how well we played. All four [goals] were beauties," said Werner. "It was a great performance, perhaps as well as we have played this year."

The Spartans will next be in action on Oct. 18 at Green Mountain in a NAC game.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Lady Spartan Soccer team was defeated 2-1 by North Atlantic Conference rival Husson University Sunday, Oct. 12, in Maine.

The Spartans and Eagles both entered the match undefeated in NAC play.

The first half of the game was a defensive battle. Spartan keeper Nakita Baldic collected nine first-half saves, while the Eagles' keeper, Tatyana Wolterbeek, collected four.

In the 66th minute of play, though, the Eagles finally broke the Spartan defense.

The Eagles' Megan Clement sent a rocket of a shot at Baldic, who blocked it, knocking it into the goal post. The ball deflected off of the post right into the path of Megan LaJoie, who fired a shot into the Spartan net.

Clement struck again just five minutes later as she found the back of the net with a shot of her own.

Spartan forward Kelly Gerken put the Spartans back in the game just three minutes later,when she headed a Courtney Chadburn corner kick past Wolterbeek.

"Our team played with a lot of heart. We had opportunities in the beginning of the game that just didn't work out for us," said Carisa Chadburn. "I think this game was one of our better games work rate wise. We worked hard and came together as a team."

The previous day, the Lady Spartans returned from vacation and defeated Maine Maritime 3-0 in NAC play.

The Spartans controlled the tempo of the game throughout, outshooting the Mariners 20-4.

Maria Arnot scored two goals for the Spartans, the first of which came just 44 seconds into the beginning of the game. Chadburn also netted a goal for the Spartans in the win.

"After scoring my first goal, I was so excited because this was a big weekend for us," Arnot said. "It was so early in the game and that is always important when playing soccer."

"Maria Arnot and Courtney's play up front started off the game in an excellent way scoring just 40 seconds into the game," said Carisa Chadburn. "Both Maria and Courtney have made great strides in their chemistry and play together."

Baldic was credited with the shutout, but no shots on net were taken by the Mariners.

Tennis team heads to tourney unbeaten

By Kyle Turner
Spartan Staff

Can you say undefeated?

Well, the women's tennis team can as they improved to 8-0 with a win over Mass.-Liberal Arts on Oct. 1. So far, none of their opponents has won more than three matches against them.

Katie Bucci and Michelle Podnecky dominated doubles play against MCLA with an 8-2 victory over Melanie Katcher and Jennifer Paskowski.

In singles play, Bucci beat Carrie Richards 10-0, Brittni Racine defeated Gaby Rivera 10-0, Podnecky defeated Katcher 10-1, and Emily Hallett defeated Sandra Sheridan 10-5.

The Spartans' next match was to be against Lyndon State College but was postponed due to weather conditions.

Cohen's team will tak a 3-0 record in VSC play to the VSC tournament as the heavy favorite.

The tournament, which will consist of Castleton, Lyndon, and Johnson State Colleges, will begin this Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Grand Slam Tennis in Rutland. The tournament will continue Saturday at Castleton State College or Grand Slam Tennis, depending on the weather.

Cohen is excited for the VSC tournament this weekend, but he is proud of his team's accomplishments this season no matter what the outcome is.

"I'm looking forward to the tournament this weekend," Cohen said. "Even though this was not the toughest schedule we have ever faced, finishing undefeated in the regular season has been a tremendous accomplishment."

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Michelle Podnecki

CSC XC team prepares for tourney

By James Dahlgard
Spartan Staff

Castleton's cross country team held its Vermont State Meet in Castleton on Oct. 4, a rainy and overcast day. The meet included 10 men's teams and 10 women's teams.

The men's teams raced first, placing fifth in the standings behind teams including the UVM and Middlebury.

Jeffrey Paul had a great outing, finishing as the top Spartan male with a time of 29:38. He was followed by Peter Smith, Andrew Hicks, Nicholas Grasso, and Trevor Arthur, bringing the team to a cumulative time of 2 hours 36 minutes and 58 seconds. The average time for the team was 31 minutes and 23 seconds.

The women's teams ran shortly after the men and endured an equally challenging race, with wet and muddy conditions impacting the trail. The Lady Spartans finished fourth. They looked very strong as well, only trailing behind teams such as UVM and Middlebury.

Maggie Klein finished first out of the Lady Spartans with a time of 20:07. She was followed by Lindsay Rines, Sage Small, Dana Pulkinen, and Lauren Cosgrove for a cumulative time of 1 hour 51 minutes and 45 seconds.

With only two more invitational meets before the North Atlantic Conference tournament, both the men and women are looking forward to the championships this year.

"We all are going to put in a lot of speed work to improve our times," said Arthur of the men's team. "We are real excited for the championships."

Sports Column

After a tumultuous end his relationship with th Boston Red Sox organiz tion, Manny Ramirez cou meet his former team on th grandest stage in baseball.

The Dodgers, carried c the back of their free-spirite left-fielder, have the Wor Series in sight as they fac the offensive-minde Philadelphia Phillies for th National Leagu Championship.

It will be tough for the boy from the West Coast to pu this series out, but th Dodgers have a strong lineu from top to bottom and po sess a hard-throwing bullpe that can overcome the powe of a Ryan Howard or a Chas Utley.

How are the Phillies goin to deal with Manny for th rest of the series? Ramire has simply been a monste for L.A. this postseason, hi ting .450 with a trio c dingers and 8 RBI's throug Sunday. And if you decide t pitch around this power house, either James Loney Andre Ethier or Matt Kem will certainly make you pa for it.

Manny Ramirez is proba bly the greatest right-hande hitter of the last 30 years an only becomes a tougher ou come postseason play, as hi 27 home runs sit atop the all time playoff record books Since his exit from Boston Manny has played the gam with newfound energy and i hustling around the bases lik an excited little-leaguer; Re Sox fans all over the country must be wondering wher this came from.

The Phillies were in com mand after the first tw games of the NLCS, but thi series has only just begun The boys in blue pulverize Philadelphia starter Jami Moyer in Game 3 by scorin six runs in the first tw innings and won 7-2.

If the Dodgers want t make their first World Serie in 20 years, they need a bette pitching performance from 16-game winner Chac Billingsley, who lasted only two innings and gave up eight earned runs in Game 2 The inexperience o Billingsley took away any chance of a split in Philadelphia, but this kid can redeem himself with a strong Game 5 outing in Los Angeles today.

Like its counterpart, the American League Championship is exhibiting its fair share of excitement and might go six or seven games.

The Red Sox proved they could win in Tampa Bay by taking the opening game, while the Rays showed poise after outlasting the Sox in an 11-inning slugfest thanks to B.J. Upton's game-winning sacrifice fly. Boston did what they had to do with a split on the road and head to Fenway with the series in a deadlock, but now it's the former cellar dweller's turn to battle away from home.

Soon-to-be AL MVP Dustin Pedroia will be counted on to get Boston's offense going in, these deciding games, but the pitching of Josh Beckett has to be a significant worry for Red Sox nation. Beckett, sporting a lifetime playoff record of 7-0 with an unbelievable 2.85 ERA, was rocked in both postseason outings this year for a combined 12 earned runs. While the injuries must still be lingering for Beckett, the defending champs will not beat Tampa Bay without his production.

The MLB would love nothing more than a World Series between the Dodgers and Red Sox. The publicity and subplots for this potential seven-game series would be endless, whether the focus is on Manny, Lowe and Nomar against the Red Sox or the managerial rivalry between Joe Torre and Tito Francona.

If these two teams win their respective Championship Series, Manny Ramirez will make the Red Sox wish they never traded him to get Jason Bay.

Bold Prediction of the week: The college football season will have another shocker and the top-ranked Texas Longhorns will lose at home to Missouri.

THE SPARTAN

October 29, 2008 Castleton State College Student Newspaper www.castletonspartan.com

INSIDE

NEWS

Castleton campus turning green.

Page 4

More doggie Style

Ace opens up.

Page 7

A&E

GodSent to Castleton

Page 5

SPORTS

Rockin' the racket

Page 8

OPINION

Killing time:
Hunting more than mowing down Bambi.

Page 2

NEXT ISSUE

Living in sin?

INDEX

Editorial..... PAGE 2
News.....PAGE 3- 4
A&E.....PAGE 5
Front and Back... PAGE 6
On Campus..... PAGE 7
Sports.....PAGE 8

Contact us at thespartan@castleton.edu or ext. 6067

Digging up the DEAD

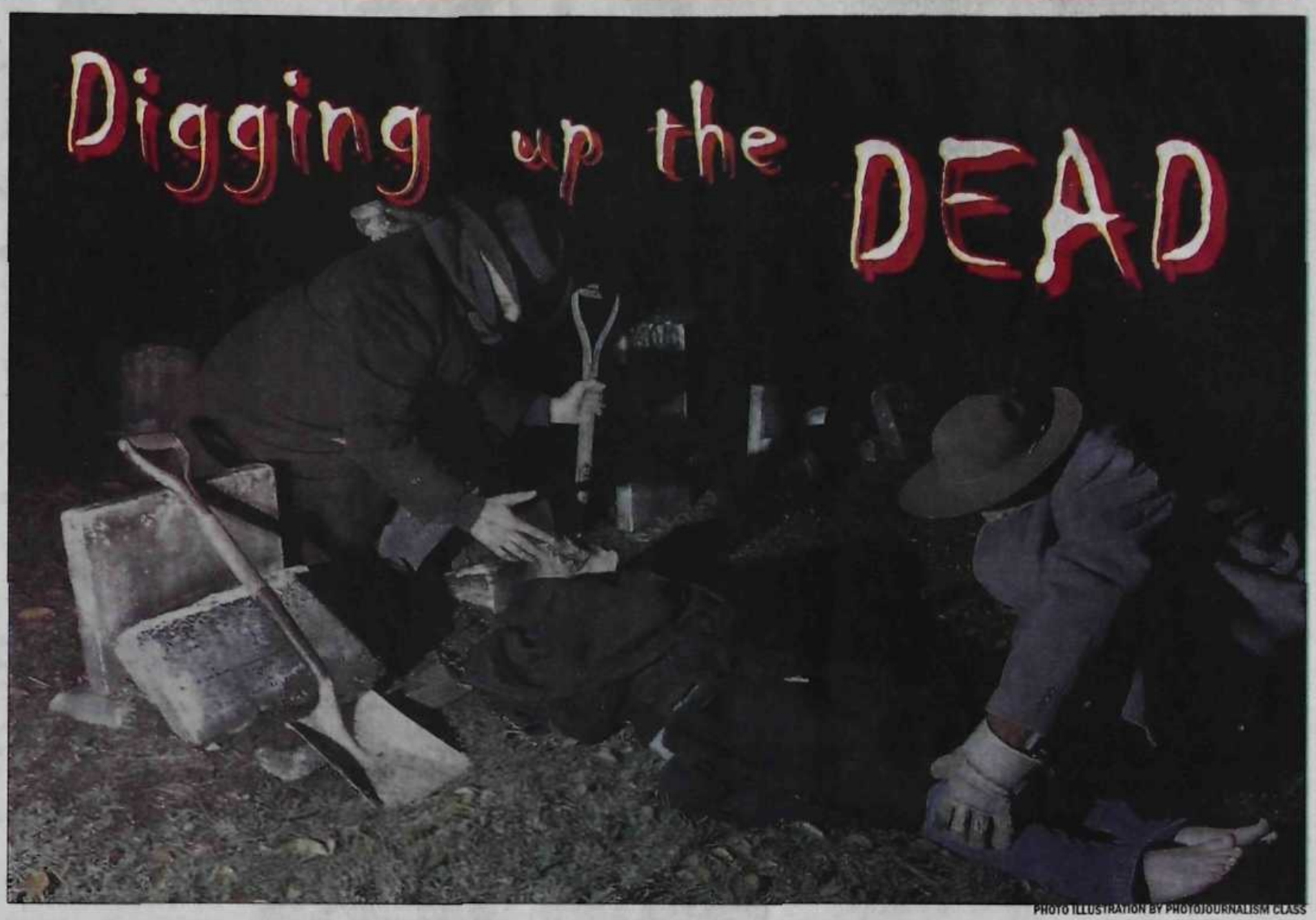

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PHOTOJOURNALISM CLASS

By Batu MacEslin
Contributing Writer

Imagine yourself as a medical student back in the 1830s. In order to get a better understanding of the human anatomy, you and your friend have just snatched the body of a recently buried person because cadavers are hard to come by.

Unfortunately for you and the school, your theft did not go unnoticed, and now 300 angry citizens of Hubbardton with axes and torches in hand, are banging on the chapel doors demanding the return of the body.

Although it seems hard to imagine, that was the scene back when the Castleton State College Old Chapel was known as Castleton Medical School.

According to several documents and articles describing the "Hubbardton Raid," in November of 1830, two Castleton medical students were caught robbing a grave in the name of science. The body they dug up was that of a woman named Penfield Churchill. The dean of the school at that time stalled the 200 men from Hubbardton while inside the two students were cutting off Churchill's head to prevent her identification. One student hid the head under his coat and escaped out the back, while the other stuffed the body under the floorboards.

Upon entrance to the medical school, the townsmen could see no trace of the body, according to published reports of the incident. However, while walking around, one of the men stubbed his toe on a loose floor board, which led to closer inspection and the finding of the headless body of Churchill.

To appease the public, Castleton expelled the two students as long as charges were dropped and the head returned, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Karen Sanborn, who directs Castleton State College's media services and handles archival duties, found many

Continued on page 6. . .

Surprise! Students back Obama

New poll suggests Castleton students leaning to the left

By Maria Arnot, Chad Cioffi, and Charles Smith
Spartan Staff

It once seemed that Nov.4, 2008 would never come. It has been a grueling, historical campaign that seemed to start years ago.

Members of the press along with millions of American citizens have been consumed by this campaign, and most may enter a state of shock when it actually concludes in two weeks - regardless of the outcome.

With less than two weeks before the deciding day, the debates have officially ended, the vice presidential candidates have been exposed, and the day on which we must register to vote has come and gone. With all this being said, hopefully those who have registered have identified with the candidate they are voting for.

This year's election, based on the number complex issues that Americans are currently facing, appears to be about substance.

According to a recent poll, done by several members of the Spartan staff, this campaign is no longer about the social issues that have divided us in the past like abortion, gay rights or religion. This election, the issues have changed.

Ninety-one students were polled by members of the Spartan Staff, and all but 16 are registered to vote.

Of the 75 students left, 51 said they plan on voting for Sen. Barack Obama.

"He is the change we need," said student Charly Klaas.

That sentiment was issued repeatedly.

"He is what the country needs," echoed Sarah Kenney.

Change, however was not

Continued on Page 6 . . .

Douglas stumping for re-election in Vermont

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Vermont Gov. James Douglas was in Castleton Friday night, being honored be area republicans – and also looking for their votes and support.

He was the primary guest at a reception at the Trak Inn on Lake Bomoseen and was the recipient of a glowing introduction by longtime Rutland lawyer Art Crowley.

Crowley told the packed room that in light of the national economic situation, Vermont was in a great situation to have a governor who has experience.

"If we re-elect our guest of honor we don't need any on the job training," he said

"Jim Douglas was sworn in as the Vermont State Treasurer 1995. He kept the books for eight years before he became governor.

"He's been our governor for six years that's 14 years of handling the finances of Vermont" said Crowley, who then repeated it for emphasis.

Crowley also brought up a Rutland Herald letter to the editor about Vermont's law that requires a candidate to receive a 50 percent plus one vote or the legislature chooses the governor. Crowley quoted from the letter saying "even if he (Douglas) gets the highest number of votes among the three candidates the legislature shouldn't elect him."

That brought boos and groans from the crowd, but Crowley used the letter writer as a means to stress the importance of getting out the vote to ensure a clear win for Douglas.

Crowley than handed the floor over to Douglas, who launched into highlights of his success with Vermont's economy.

"I do feel good about how we have faired during some relatively challenging times ... I feel very strongly about the work that I've done in terms of fiscal responsibility," he said.

But then Douglas spoke about the national economic crisis on Vermont.

"In the short term it's going to be a tough time, especially during the coming winter when some of our families might need some extra help,

Continued on page 6. . .

Castleton professor searching for future leaders

Charles Smith
Spartan Staff

Roughly 120 students sat in the Jeffords Auditorium on Oct. 23rd. They were listening to psychology professor, creator of Castleton's ABA program, and martial arts expert, Professor Terry Bergen talk to them about leadership.

"You get a door prize though," said Bergen, explaining that if the students take nothing out of this lecture they'll still get some words of emotional wisdom free of charge.

"When bad things happen, remember this – It's not your fault, It doesn't happen all the time, It doesn't happen everywhere you go," was written as the first slide on the projection screen.

Bergen utilized the clickers in Jeffords well. He polled the students on sex (40 percent of the audience was male, 60 percent female) grade level, over 55 percent were freshmen, and finally he asked the question,

Continued on page 6. . .

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Castleton students pose with Vermont Gov. James Douglas at a recent campaign stop in Bomoseen.

But, seriously, folks. . . vote

Every year like clockwork, the week or so before Halloween on the Castleton campus buzzes with costume ideas, plans to go to Flubbs, and talk about whose off-campus house is going to have the best party.

A similar gossiping-planning-partying cycle falls into place for the Superbowl, the rugby season, or just because it's Friday.

While this predictable series of events is clearly something Castleton students get excited about, I'm slightly discouraged to see a very low level of excitement toward the upcoming election, at least visibly speaking.

The last few issues of The Spartan have featured articles with different Castleton students stating their opinion of the candidates, portraying a picture of a well-informed and involved campus.

But based on dialogue I've observed in and out of classrooms, the comprehension of what's going on as well as the responsibility of the civic engagement that is the presidential election seems to be mediocre at best.

Maybe I'm wrong. I hope I'm wrong.

U.S. Census figures indicated that only 64 percent of eligible voters voted in the 2004 election, up slightly from 60 percent in 2000. Call me crazy if you'd like, but that number seems shockingly low to me. Some might say that it's more than half, which is a good thing, but I'm not quite as enthusiastic with those figures.

Also, college-student-aged voters also made up a low percentage of voters when broken down by demographic — that's even less excusable.

If you haven't given voting a second thought, please let me attempt to reason with you. If you are at least 18 and a citizen of the United States, I find very few excuses, if any, valid for choosing not to vote.

First of all, if you haven't noticed, we college students get a pretty bad rap. We're often lumped in as this conglomerate image of lazy, ungrateful, naïve, unmotivated menaces who contribute little to the greater good aside from keeping the local liquor stores in business.

Maybe, for one reason or another, those stereotypes don't bother you, but if and when they start interfering with your ability to get a job, an apartment, or to be treated respectably and maturely, it probably will bother you, as it should.

Don't fall into a trap by telling yourself that you're still young enough not to care about politics and that even if you did care, no one would listen to you. If you're 18 and you walk over to the nearest voting center, your voice will be heard, no questions asked.

Bridging off that, if the "I'm young enough to not be informed" excuse has been working for you, consider the fact that these next 4 years (even if you're a freshman) are going to be directly affected by whoever wins this next election.

Our future jobs, homes, businesses, families — WE are the ones who need to be making these decisions, because it's our turn to step into the forefront. There's not going to be an older generation in front of us waiting to take the brunt and correct the mistakes of those before us much longer.

And lastly, the most common excuse I've heard is "I'd vote, but I'm not informed about the issues." Excuse me, what? That's your excuse? If you're not informed, here's an idea - GET INFORMED!

If you haven't noticed, this election is kind of, sort of a huge deal, and all it would take is a Google search with the candidates' names to catch yourself up.

If you want all the issues in a hurry backed up by direct quotes from the candidates where they stand, I'm one step ahead of you: www.ontheissues.org lays it all out in black and white and takes you about as long as it would to go to Fireside and grab a bite.

So, put on your Halloween costumes and go have fun with your friends. Enjoy your last few years on the bridge to "the real world." None of those things need to be compromised. But challenge yourself to have a clue and get as excited about the future as you are about the present.

You wouldn't miss the social event that you've been looking forward to, so don't miss your chance for the last time in 4 years to vote.

November 4, 2008.

-- Laura Olson

Um, Aren't You A Little Old To Be Trick-or-Treating?
Listen I Don't Need Any Candy I'm From Wall Street And I'm Going Door To Door To Try To Get Money It's For A Good Cause I Assure You. I'll Even Except Change If You Got It!
Wow, This Is Yummy

BY JAMES LOTT

Soothing the soul one kill at a time

I hated hunting as a child.

There were few things that I despised more than lurching about the woods trying to track down an elusive white-tail deer. The entire process was boring and tiring, and I wanted no part of it.

A typical day of hunting began with my father, and often an uncle, ripping the sheets and blankets from my bed at 4:30 in the morning.

Not a good start.

I would then get dressed in layers upon layers of uncomfortable clothing. Long underwear, turtlenecks, and a wool jackets were not my attire of choice.

I would fall asleep on the drive down a long dirt road, but the nap was never quite long enough. Out of the truck and into the cold and unforgiving woods we went. And for some cruel reason, the morning always started off with an incredibly steep uphill climb. Every single time.

When we finally settled in, I would be gasping for air and sweating profusely. In mere moments, I would be half-asleep and freezing. I could not figure out what the attraction was to this "sport."

Everything about hunting was painstaking, and an unsuccessful hunt was the normality. I can remember arriving home at the end of the day to my mother asking, "What did you kill?" I usually responded with a one-word answer…time. I just didn't think the juice was worth the squeeze.

Fast forward to the present. Oh how things have changed. I look back on those days and laugh. While I still do not enjoy waking up in the early morning, I do love hunting. This is the first October, and therefore, hunting season, that I have spent in Vermont since my senior year of high school in 2004.

I have been hunting quite a bit and bagged nothing. But I've loved every minute of it.

I find myself reminiscing of my earlier hunting days as I sit in the woods. I can remember sitting on the cold ground and thinking that I would rather be anywhere else in the world.

On Friday night I went hunting, and as a doe grazed a patch of ground about 100 yards from me (too far to shoot a bow and arrow), I watched intently and thought that I wouldn't want to be anywhere else but in that tree stand.

As a kid I liked watching all of the squirrels in the woods. It didn't seem like any deer ever came around, so the squirrels were my only company.

Today, however, I want to kill them all. They shuffle through the dry leaves taunting me as I look erratically in every direction, always thinking the noise might be a deer. The squirrels have me paranoid.

The uphill climb over tough terrain that I once detested so much is now good exercise.

The cold air is refreshing. The silence of the woods that once bored me is now peaceful and meditative.

There is no such thing as an unsuccessful hunt anymore. I either come home with a deer or a pocket full of humility. A little humble pie is good for everyone once in a while.

I now see hunting as a true sport. It is a sport that requires a certain amount of both physical endurance and intuitiveness.

It is not just a hobby for rednecks, but a sport for anyone looking to tap into their primitive roots. Try it sometime. Even if the deer escapes you, it's a great way to kill a little time.

-- Steven McNulty

From the Messageboard

Responses to "Castleton campus of whiners"

Why hello Chuck Smith! I was looking at my old issues of the Spartan and said to myself, "Wait, I wonder what's going on in the world of Castleton?" I then proceeded to visit the website and stumbled upon this little editorial, which seemed like the perfect thing for me to read. STOP COMPLAINING PEOPLE! I was there, I complained too, I know. But now that I left, I wish I was back in C-ton complaining. At Castleton I knew my professors, I knew all the people working at Huden, I knew half of the people I saw everyday. Yea, the location of Castleton blew, but the school itself is wonderful. My new college is big, and it's in the middle of the city. I have a few cool professors, but it's much harder here to connect with not only my teachers, but also my fellow students. Honestly I would like to be back at Castleton. Mind you, I don't want to be in Vermont, but if the school could like juxtapose itself into Denver, Co, that would be cool. Anyways just thought I'd share that with all, and give a shout out to the amazing Spartan and the people who work there! Miss you guys!

— JoAnna Doolan

Response to "Stereotypes be damned"

Great article. I am a professor now at two colleges and I welcome my skateboarders and their skateboards into class. They are often stereotyped as dumb and not serious students. I have found this not to be true.

The respect I earn from them as a result of not applying this stereotype is deep. Stereotypes h u r t . . .

Regarding buzzed boarders not getting hurt, can't buy that one. I can't even make it two inches on a board sober...can't imagine with alcohol in my system!

--Dr. Andrea Silva McManus

Response to "Who's really abusing booze?"

I've been a police officer since I graduated CSC. All I can say is that in ten years time, I have responded to more DWI personal injury and serious personal injury motor vehicle accidents than I care to try to remember. Those accidents involving drugs and alcohol are generally more horrific than those just based on excessive speed alone. I can also add that alcohol in general ought to be outlawed... It seems to fuel fires such as domestic violence. I have yet to have responded to a call where some guy just toked up his water bong or took his pot pipe and hit on it, and then went and back handed his wife. I have never dealt with too many pot heads that were uncooperative. Now the guy who is a .08% or more BAC, is usually always going to give the cops a harder time. Nothing good ever comes from alcohol. One or two drinks a day maybe. After that it's bad news....

— Paul Krug

Spartan advisor recalls stressful situation

On Friday I had perhaps the most stressful day in my four years as a professor here.

I was hearing allegations from a source in a recent Spartan story that the quotes attributed to him in the newspaper were completely fabricated and that he had never spoken to the reporter other than to tell him that he didn't have time to speak with him.

As a journalist for nearly two decades and advisor to the school paper, that was like a punch to the head.

Thousands of thoughts flowed through my head, especially after just concluding a lesson in my ethics class on faking the news.

How would I approach the reporter? Will this ethical mistake – in my mind the worst mistake anyone can make in journalism – get outside of Castleton's walls? Will I have to deal with interviews by local or national media about the news faker and would it forever cast a negative light on the journalism program here that I've worked really hard to bolster?

I was literally getting sick about it.

Then I talked to the reporter, who disputed what the source said, saying he interviewed him after a concert late at night – but in a talking fashion and without a notebook. He was adamant that interview had taken place.

The source was then contacted again, and said he had forgotten that night, and said he probably did say the comments attributed to him, which made my blood pressure drop immensely and allowed me to breathe again.

But to me, the issue wasn't over. I didn't like the fact that a source could have been 'interviewed' without really knowing it. I mean, if it was some expose about an issue where the deceit would uncover a matter of international security or unveil some tragic abuse of human rights or something, I'd say that's OK. But the story wasn't a heavy hitter and the tactic wasn't needed.

And in speaking with the reporter and picking apart the story a little, I learned that some of the passages in the story that made the reader feel like the reporter witnessed the action, were essentially a compilation of stories and sights he'd seen – but not specific to the source – as was portrayed.

Another no-no.

In my classes, especially the ethics class, I preach how important it is to write and report accurate unbiased stories. To do less erodes the credibility of an already tarnished profession – thanks in part to news fakers like reporters Jayson Blair and Stephen Glass.

We can't give readers any more reasons not to trust what they read in the paper every day.

As advisor to the paper, I'm glad that we don't have a true news faker on our staff, but I'm disappointed that we were accused of it and got a little closer to that than I'd like.

I think a valuable lesson has been learned here by the reporter and I hope this is the last time I have to stress out over this sort of thing.

-- Professor David Blow

The SPARTAN
CASTLETON STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Fresh Perspectives

Maria Arnot

Being that this is my first edition of my own Fresh Perspectives, I spent much time pondering what topics I would chose to write about, ones that may be of interest or concern to other freshman.

I've certainly had my fair share of college experiences thus far, and there are many obvious changes that we, as freshman, must undergo when first introduced to college life. But which of these are most important?

We have now been here for eight weeks. Eight weeks in which we have endured cafeteria-style food, slept in uncomfortable dorm-style beds, attended non-alcoholic-style parties, and watched numerous soundings events.

Eight weeks in which we have listened to seemingly endless lectures that, although may have seemed excruciatingly boring at the time, will certainly be of significance in the end.

These first eight weeks have flown by for me. In fact, they have gone by so quickly that it feels impossible that eight weeks has actually passed. I recall coming here at the end of August and sensing a remote fear that I would not be seeing my parents for over a month — longer than I have ever gone before.

When I actually went home for October break a few weeks ago, I was astonished to discover that there was actually nothing to do in my monotonous home town.

I now desired to be away from home and to go back to good old CSC. It did reinforce though, that mom's home-cooked meals and my bed are far cozier than what Castleton has to offer.

With the conclusion of this break comes the sudden approach of Halloween — I recently discovered that trick-or-treating is not permitted in the town of Castleton — and mid-semester point, accompanied with a billion papers to write and my ultimate hibernation in the library.

Plus, the shade of foliage is changing quite rapidly. I noticed a distinct change in the weather pattern the other day while walking to fireside for my weekly buffalo chicken calzone. Castleton also received its first snow this week and as you all know, this means that the rail outside of Ellis (the lovely building in which I reside) will soon be ready for use.

In other news, soccer season is nearing the end in addition to several other sports seasons at Castleton. "Grey's Anatomy" is several episode's in (McDreamy is still as hot as ever), and construction for our new and improved campus is underway.

In this case, I have yet to learn that I am not longer able to exit the back of fireside in the morning. I continuously find myself facing that stupid plastic fence, instantaneously turning around, hoping that nobody s a w .

On a more serious note, the showers in Ellis still don't work properly. The soccer field is officially destroyed (and evidently some intrepid students decided to climb the massive dirt pile and, consequently, got caught). Fireside will soon be gone. Stats class lives on and continues to bother me, and we still have several more weeks left until our next break; life is so hard.

I hope you all have a wonderful week.

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Staring down the Boogieman

Castleton's students recall their wildest childhood nightmares

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

The only sound heard on the wooden floor is of footsteps — quickening their pace as they reach the bedroom door.

The noise then becomes mute, as the small body stretches out in mid-air like a long jumper. The clearing was landed as the child's body comes to rest on the mattress below.

He had again successfully cleared the area in front of the bed. The mysterious pair of arms would have to wait another night to plan its attack.

This is the fear that tormented Morgan Sasso, a Castleton senior, for most of his childhood. The constant worry and fear he would feel as bedtime slowly approached was no match for the adrenaline rush that manifested in his body as he jumped to his bed.

Getting out of bed required a similar effort. Sasso would jump out of bed and quickly run to the doorway before he felt safe.

"Looking back on it, the whole thing is kinda funny now," said Sasso. "I was so afraid of what I knew wasn't really there, but it still made me petrified."

For freshmen Kevin McCarthy, the scariest thing was being alone at home. McCarthy and his twin brother were home alone after school until the workday was over for their parents.

"Scary stuff would always happen to us when we were by ourselves," said McCarthy. "We were always caught in crazy situations."

On one occasion, the McCarthy twins came home from school just like any other day. When one of the brothers went to use the phone a mysterious voice was on the other end. A sudden feeling of panic came over the two.

They then ran down the road half-a-mile in the boondocks of Vermont.

"We were hauling butt down the road," McCarthy said, laughing in between words ready to give the punch line to his story. "We saw some guys working on the telephone wires so we stopped running. They told us if anything funky was going on with the phones not to worry."

McCarthy said having a twin brother got rid of the fear of loneliness, but the scenarios they found their way into became stranger each time. He said it became something they began to expect.

After taking that last step off the school bus and if nothing happened to put the twins in peril before their parents came home, the day would seem too out of the ordinary.

Childhood fears are most commonly thought of as the boogieman, a pair of arms, or blood according to many Castleton students. But children eventually realize the pair of arms under the bed is really just a figment of their imagination. The

fact children, humans at that, feel fear makes it vital to survival.

"Without fear our ancestors would be eradicated with all the dangers around them," Castleton psychology professor, Terry Bergen, said. "If we weren't afraid of bears, they would have wiped our ancestors out."

Fears are necessary for human survival, protecting people from things that could be very harmful according to Bergen. But somewhere in the mix people develop strange phobias because of irrational fears. The age of seven is the age of reason, according to Bergen. At this age kids commonly overcome the arms under the bed or need the night light to brave the darkness.

Bergen said phobias are maladaptive fear. A fear enhances life and allows people to live happily and successfully. Phobias reduce a person's freedom, restricting them from life's luxuries. People are hardwired for phobic reactions.

Castleton Psychology Chair, John Klein spoke about a more specific phobia adopted by children.

"Let's say you go to school and there is a school shooting," Klein said. "You would have a phobic reaction. You might see a school psychologist."

Although there is no particular way to overcome a fear or phobia, there are steps one can take to feel safer. Smaller steps towards resolution are the best way to overcome a phobias according to Klein.

"The psychologist would have you do oriented stuff, like walking by the bus stop, walking up to the school door. That would reduce the phobic reaction to whatever is causing it," Klein said.

Klein also explained how dark places make children so afraid because the lack of control they feel. The mystery hidden in the darkness also plays a mental factor. The one thing distinguishing people from other organisms is that humans have a frontal cortex he said. This ability for people to think at a higher level, also allows them to create very odd fears.

The cover of the Stephen King movie "IT" haunted the bedtime of Castleton freshmen, Brittany Baron. Pennywise, the menacing clown would stare down off the VHS box and would be engraved in Baron's head until bedtime.

By the time the lights turned off the self-torment began. The mental battle would begin just before slipping off into dreamland.

"I was like seven," said Baron, remembering a nightmare with King's freakish clown. "IT was patrolling the entire neighborhood in a mote, he was rowing around in a boat. He was growling at us. His teeth were scary!"

PHOTO BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

Pumpkins are a familiar reminder of the Halloween season.

History of Halloween

By Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

Samhain, Savven, Witch's Thanksgiving, Hollow Tide, Hallow Mass, All Hallow's Eve, Halloween.

Every Oct. 31, children dress up in costumes and go around begging treats from neighbors who have their porch lights on. In older children, with the absence of a treat, there is sometimes a trick.

But why is Halloween celebrated thus? And why does it have so many different names?

Some questions of this sort were answered by Castleton English Professor Joyce Thomas.

"Halloween as celebrated in the United States is actually fairly recent," Thomas said.

Samhain (pronounced sow-wen) began as the Celtic New Year a little over 2,000 years ago. It has changed very much since then. Trick-or-treating didn't begin until the Great Depression.

Rumor has it that the tradition of trick-or-treating began with one woman in the Midwest inviting children into her home in order to receive a treat.

Although it's not everywhere that Halloween is so popular. English Professor Drennan Spitzer used to live in California.

"Halloween is more important in New England," she said.

Part of that may be because of Salem, the witch village, in Massachusetts. It also could be in part that it's celebrated differently and under different names, depending on its location.

In England, children celebrate Guy Fawkes Day — which they get off from school — by going door to door and begging for pennies. Then they have bonfires that night. Bonfires seem to be one of the connecting bits; it connects various versions of Halloween.

Children's costumes, which (according to one theory) started out as a fun game, the neighbors had to guess who the children were— have often become out of hand each year.

There are costumes of everything from princesses to dragons, vampires to politicians. In keeping with what's popular, there are also costumes of pop singers and such. Most such costumes look odd on children, when they were meant for an adult to wear.

"I don't like seeing young children in sexual costumes," Spitzer said. She adds that if that's what an adult wants to wear, then it's fine.

As for poisoned apples and such on Halloween night, there have only been a small number of reported incidents. And most of the culprits were someone that the children knew. It is still a good idea to be cautious though.

Many things associated with Halloween now weren't even heard of when the holiday started, such as Halloween cards. Many of the specific candies had not been invented yet either. Candy corn wasn't invented until the 1880's. While that is over a hundred years ago, it's almost two thousand years after the holiday b e g a n .

"There is no one explanation for Halloween," Thomas said. "It's a mix of beliefs and cultures."

Tricks-n-treats come to Castleton

By Sarah Kenney
Spartan Staff

It's no myth that Halloween trick-or-treaters are forbidden to walk around the streets of Castleton, begging for candy or performing mischievous tricks upon those willing to comply with candy.

This fact caused the Castleton Physical Education Majors Club and the Castleton Lions Club to team up. Over the last eight years, the two organizations have put on a Halloween party for the elementary school children in the Castleton, Fair Haven, West Rutland and Poultney areas.

At 6 p.m. on Halloween night, the children's Halloween party will begin as local kids show off their superhero, monster, and witch costumes until 8 p.m.

The idea is to get the Castleton campus involved in providing a service for the community, where local children are able to enjoy the Halloween festivities safely and warmly.

The Lions Club provides monetary funds for the event, while students are in charge of set up, programming and cleanup. Clubs all over the campus host different booths with different activities for the children, such as face painting, pumpkin painting, learning to shoot a slap shot with a hockey player, and a haunted house. All the activities have been part of the traditions that started over the years from running the alternative Halloween customs.

Lisa Pleban, a Castleton professor of physical education, revealed that with all the left-over pumpkins, someone on campus will be "punk'd" with pumpkins stuffed into their office.

Pleban believes that this experience is good for all of those involved and even entices her students to participate.

"Students may elect to volunteer, write a paper to receive elective credit," she said.

Jeff Morse, a former volunteer and athletic trainer major, is enthusiastic about the program.

"It's nice seeing the kids come in and have fun," he said.

This year the party was almost cancelled. In the past the event was hosted in the Glenbrook Gymnasium, but due to construction circumstances, the Halloween hodown has been relocated to the Student Center, which will be shot down for the hours of the party.

The Rutland Halloween Parade is also falls on the same night. Those who do not want to make the trek and stand in the cold are more than welcome. The party will go on throughout the entire building and while the kids are engaged in their activities, the parents use it as a social event for themselves.

In the past, there have been cowboys, pirates, cheerleaders and Fred Flinstone in attendance. But this year, there's going to be some bright colored 80's punk rockers there to spice up the costume variety. Volunteers have been known to start for one year and then keep coming back for more.

A Non Trad's View

Susan Hernandez

I find it ironic that we now have the woman we thought would be the democratic nominee working to defeat the woman who is the republican vice presidential candidate.

We should be happy to have a woman representing us as vice-president, right? I for one am not happy about Sara Palin. I felt so strongly that I helped organize a rally to support the national and state democratic candidates, and to celebrate our right to vote.

The women who put this rally together believe that the democratic thicket is the women's ticket. We feel it best represents the feminist view. The agenda put forth by the McCain-Palin ticket is anti-woman. We urge women to look at the issues from a feminists view before casting their vote.

The right to choose is not a pro-abortion stand. It is a right for women to have control over their own body and their destiny. The next president will have to choose Supreme Court judges to fill impending vacancies. The republican candidates have said they will look for conservative judges with the purpose of overturning Rowe v. Wade. Sara Palin does not even believe in terminating a pregnancy in cases of rape and incest.

The economy affects everyone. In many cases it is the woman in the family that is in charge of the family finances. When there is talk of cutting budgets, it's the single poor women who are usually in need of the most help and yet are hurt most by social program cuts. Politicians can not just take a hatchet to the budget. They must look at the effect those cuts will have on the people they serve.

As a mother, I want the next president to value the lives of our soldiers as much as their own mothers do. I do not want the enlisted of this country to be seen as little plastic soldiers to be replaced as they are lost. I fear the ultra conservative Christian right wing that believes this war is a mission from God.

The purpose of the rally was to bring a feminist view to the issues and celebrate the woman's right to vote. Gaye Symington spoke about growing the economy through a "renewable and diverse energy industry."

Granny D (a life long activist) was the guest of honor and spoke about not getting too upset over the doom and gloom reports on the economy. She told those gathered that the depression was hard, but people pulled together and got through it.

She said that at 98 years old she had seen a lot and that we always come out the other end.

Granny D was 10 years old when women got the right to vote. The suffragettes were imprisoned and beaten so that we could have a voice in the policies of our country. The only way to make the voice heard is to vote.

One sign at the rally summed it up saying "It's a man world unless woman vote."

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What happened to the hookahs?

By Annie Hartman
Spartan Staff

A large group gathered at the picnic table outside Huden one evening. Conversation and laughter billowed from the middle of a group of Castleton students as did clouds of grape smelling smoke.

In the center of the circle of smokers was a vase-style glass that looks like something out of your grandmother's basement, but with hoses running from it to teach smoker's mouth.

It was an intricately crafted glass blown hookah, and this scene played out daily on campus at the beginning of the semester.

But that was over a month ago. Now the hookahs that had been seen on every lawn on campus are banned. An e-mail sent Sept. 15 to all Castleton State students from Dean of Students Greg Stone, made it clear that the hookah fad must be put to an end.

Others agreed.

"This is an affirming of our policy," said Dennis Proulx, director of residential life. Proulx, Stone, and the rest of the administration and Student Association say that students smoking hookah pipes on campus could be a detriment to the Castleton State public image.

For those who didn't see the smoking groups or have never heard of the hookah, it is an ancient water pipe originating from Eastern culture. Often the tobacco is flavored with choices ranging from molasses to pineapple.

It has a base, the glass vase-looking part that holds the water, a pipe, which is the body of the hookah, hoses, which smokers inhale the sweet smoke from, a bowl made of clay that holds the coal and tobacco, a coal tray, and coal.

Though most often hookahs are used for smoking tobacco, they can be used to smoke marijuana and therefore have been deemed on the Castleton campus, and on several other college campuses around the country, "drug paraphernalia."

Proulx and Stone both said that it's too tough to determine whether students are smoking tobacco or other organics from the hookahs. On page 22 of the CSC Student Handbook it is stated "Drug paraphernalia is not allowed." According to Stone, hookahs and other types of water pipes fall under this category.

But there are several CSC students who disagree with the decision to ban hookahs. Roy Mercon, a junior at Castleton, e-mailed Stone after getting the campus wide e-mail saying hookahs were banned.

"Sure, it can be used for smoking marijuana," writes Mercon, "but, if you are creative, water bottles and soda cans can also be used. Where's the line?"

And many students are asking the same question. Several have brought up the point that if hookahs are banned, cigarettes and cigars should be banned as well. After all, both are just different ways of smoking the same tobacco that is being smoked from the hookah.

"On one hand tobacco is allowed, on the other hand drug paraphernalia is not," said Proulx. The two contrasting rules make the issue a hot topic across the Castleton campus.

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

A Castleton student takes a drag off his hookah before the school decided to ban them.

It's a Culture.

Mercon argued in his e-mail to Stone that "a hookah is the perfect social medium." And his point is one that has been brought up on several occasions.

The smoking of hookah began as a social medium in the Middle East. It has snowballed elsewhere in the world, including the United States, into a cultural phenomenon over the past few years mostly among teens and young adults.

Hookah bars and cafés have popped up all over the country. In fact, since the recent efforts to get smoking banned in all public establishments, some of the tobacco venues have received a pass. Because a significant amount of their income is from the sale of the tobacco products, the establishments qualify under an exemption to the anti-smoking law.

Dobra Tea in Downtown Burlington was previously an establishment that allowed its customers to join in the smoking of the flavored tobacco while sipping on over 60 types of tea from all over the world.

Students here at Castleton argue that the college should jump on the cultural band wagon and set the standard for other Vermont state colleges and even colleges outside the state.

One freshman in favor of keeping hookahs around urged Stone to reverse his decision using the argument that, as a first-year student, smoking hookah on campus had allowed he and several other students to meet in a social setting.

Stone says he supports finding social mediums.

"I wish I could have found a way to support this group's social meetings," he said. "I just didn't think we could do it with hookah."

How about your health?

Despite the common belief that the smoke is filtered by the water in the pipe, it is, in fact, no safer than smoking a cigarette. According to Thomas Eissenberg, a psychology professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and the co-author of a hookah study, "Every risk of smoking a cigarette is also associated with water pipes."

And in some cases, the side effects are more severe. According to his study, smoking from a hookah for 45 minutes delivers 36 times more tar than one cigarette, 15 percent more carbon monoxide, and 70 percent more nicotine.

The damage to a hookah smoker's body does not end there. A hookah smoker is five times more likely to show signs of gum disease than a non-smoker and five times more likely to be diagnosed with lung disease than a non-smoker.

A change in the future?

Rumors spread like wildfire across campus the first two weeks of school that an incoming Castleton student was starting a hookah club. Proulx said he had heard of no such club, but anyone looking to start a hookah club is going to have to wait until policy is changed.

However, the administration urges students that if they want to see a change in the policy to approach the members of the student association.

If the Student Association and the Faculty Assembly support the arguments made by the student body and support a change in policy, that change would most likely be made.

However, few efforts to reverse the decision have been made. Stone said that of all the students that he sent the e-mail to, only four either responded via e-mail or met with him and to his knowledge, no one had approached the Student Association regarding the issue.

The administration is aware that the hookah is not the root of all evil, but that doesn't mean the ban will go away anytime soon.

"There are some strong arguments," said Proulx. "But right now our arguments are stronger."

New campus program furthering green goals

By Shelby LaCroix
Spartan Staff

A new kind of wooded area popped up next to the Coffee Cottage on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Ten-foot-tall stakes dressed in pink ribbons fashioned a path from Woodruff to Jeffords following the gravel walkway.

The path was approximately 10-feet-wide, 10-feet-tall, and over 200 yards long.

It was made to represent the 100 tons of items Castleton has recycled since 2005. That's 2039 cubic yards by volume!

The Sustainability Club on campus has put "tons" of effort into making a successful recycling program at Castleton a reality. Stacia Bucknell, president of the club, truly believes in the benefits of recycling.

"It's important for the reduction of waste and it saves energy," said Bucknell. She explains that less energy is used in recycling than in making new products from scratch.

The 367,350 kilowatt hours saved by recycling (equivalent to 100 tons), could power Castleton's entire campus for 27 days straight, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The 906 barrels of oil saved by recycling (which equates to more than 20,000 gallons of gasoline), could provide more than 38 commuters with enough gas for one year.

Castleton recycles aluminum, glass, plastic, newspaper, mixed paper (including magazines), and cardboard. Other items which can be recycled include batteries, light bulbs, and computers, though they must be taken care of separately.

In the past three years, Castleton has updated its green apparel.

First Year Seminar students now actively participate on "Green Monday" in recycling efforts.

> *"But if it was up to me, I'd strap solar panels on every roof on this campus."*
>
> STACIA BUCKNELL

There are 25 locations around campus which provide receptacles for glass, plastic, and cans.

The Student Initiative even incorporates plans for the LEED certification of the renovated and newly constructed buildings.

"We're going for silver," Bucknell explains. "This is a 27 million dollar project, and we're going for silver? Lets go for gold!" she encourages.

LEED Certification is based upon a point system (26-69 to be considered certified) and points are given for sustainability in renovations and in the construction of new buildings. Scoring breaks down as follows: 33-38 points equal silver, 39-51 points equal gold, and 52-69 is platinum.

"I mean, there's so much we can do…a LOT we can do. But at a small college we don't have as much input and we don't have money, which is a huge impact. It's hard not having any money," says Bucknell. "Even though the return on investment would be better in the future, we just don't have the money up front right now."

She's asked what she would do to make Castleton more sustainable, if money wasn't a hindrance.

"Even if all these buildings were all temperature controlled, I think it would greatly impact the amount of oil we use," she said. "But if it was up to me, I'd strap solar panels on every roof on this campus. Get a little wind farm, a HUGE garden; HUGE. We can grow pretty much anything. It is Vermont."

The 100 tons of recyclables Castleton has collected in the last three years is a representation of its commitment to being green. Castleton is home to just under two-thousand students; a tight-knit community right in the heart of Vermont. With motivated clubs and individuals pursuing Castleton's potential, green is in sight.

Change in this case however, cannot be done alone.

"This is a whole community project," said Bucknell. "We need the whole community's support in order to get it going!"

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

A Castleton student walks along a display that represents 100 tons of recycled items.

Anyone up for a road trip?

Members of the "Roadtrip Nation" crew visited the Castleton campus Oct. 17.

PHOTO BY COURTNEY BONOYER

By Courtney Bonoyer
Spartan Staff

Castleton Students may have noticed something unusual in the Adams-Haskell hall Courtyard on Oct. 17. Representatives from the show Roadtrip Nation were parked in their bright green RV poised to tell students about the show in hopes of getting them to sign up.

According to the show's Web site, the idea behind the show is that they "send people on the road who are interested in exploring the world outside their comfort zone, talking with individuals who chose to define their own road in life, and sharing their experiences with our generation."

Roadtrip Nation was started in 2001 when a group of friends had just graduated from college and didn't know what to do so they decided to go on a road trip and interview people along the way. The four friends traveled in an RV they painted green and they made a documentary of their experience.

Now instead of one green RV they have four (although one is the original that was used and no longer makes any trips) and instead of four friends there is big company.

The people who are interviewed can be anyone from a CEO of a major company to a celebrity to your average Joe. Some of the ones who have been interviewed so far are the CEO's of Dell Inc. and Starbucks, a Section Chief for the FBI and man who plays music on buckets, dubbed Bucket Man.

There are two options for road trips, a summer long excursion and a much shorter version. On the long road trip participants travel on one of the green RV's and are followed around by a camera crew while they interview 25 to 30 people.

On the short trip, people take their own cars and usually travel for about a week, interviewing at least three people. With that one, there is no camera crew so students have to do the videotaping and editing themselves and send the footage in.

Grant money is given so participants don't have to pay for their travel. Anyone can apply and even if they don't have someone in mind to go with, they'll just be paired with other people.

Inside the RV that came to campus there was a single bed, a small bathroom that was being used as storage, a kitchen and a couple of couches. The walls and ceiling were covered with stickers and quotes from previous riders as if to say that when one is on that RV they should make it their home.

The four representatives, who gave only their first names, were Tim, Scott, Heather and Sarah. They left California three weeks ago and are traveling all over the country promoting Roadtrip Nation.

"We get along well, but sometimes it gets nuts and we need alone time," Tim said.

While living on the road has its benefits, like being able to see new places, there are some parts that are less than ideal, like not being able to shower on a regular basis. On the road, they shower when and where they can and sometimes that means now showering for a few days.

The trip teaches people a lot though as they plan everything on their own and drive themselves. They also have to deal with unforeseen obstacles, they said.

"The windshield broke in Manhattan," Scott said of one trip, adding that the students who were driving needed to figure out what to do.

Entertainment In Review

Max Payne

Film Review By Mike Weins
Spartan Staff

After many disappointing videogame-to-movie adaptations, including "Mario Brothers," "Resident Evil," and "Doom," I was quite wary of a "Max Payne" movie.

After playing the game "Max Payne," I became a very big fan since the experience was unlike other games. Playing this game was almost like playing a movie.

It's been a long time since a video game has had such good action sequences that weren't overtly difficult or became repetitive as the game goes on.

With its film-noir style and big shootouts, a lot of people in the gaming community knew that "Max Payne" would make a great movie.

And it did.

They choose just the right actor to play Max (Mark Wahlberg) and it was shot beautifully. The movie took place in modern day but looked like a classic noir film from the 1940's (except it was in color).

The cinematography didn't have huge crazy shots or an over-abundance of the "shaky cam" shots, which I was worried about after watching "Death Race."

It was included in some scenes, but the superbly shot fights made up for it.

The game had "Matrix-style" shootouts, so you could say it was a "noir-Matrix" (without all of the computers and internet mumbo jumbo).

I was worried that the movie would look too much like the "Matrix" but it doesn't. The slow-mo was used throughout the action scenes and when it was used, it looked and sounded amazing.

Particularly one scene, where Max is diving backwards and firing a shotgun over his head. It was so slow it made what would have been a 10 second scene with three shots fired into a slow, John Woo gun battle.

It has been said that the Max Payne game was like playing a John Woo action movie.

Well unfortunately, watching the movie wasn't like a John Woo movie. The action scenes were sparse but it made up for it with the story. The story wasn't as complex as the video game (isn't it usually the other way around?) but they did do a good job making it a much tighter story.

With a video game you're spending 20-30 hours playing through it, but with a movie you only have 90-120 minutes. So the writers had to combine a lot of elements and delete a lot of scenes.

With that, the "Max Payne" movie storyline was tight but not condensed like powdered milk. They also stayed true to the game by sticking to the core characters and the basic elements that made the game such a thrill to play.

Even if you have never played the game you should still see this movie.

If you're an action fan you'll love it. If you're a noir fan you'll love it. If you don't like violence in movies you'll hate it. Don't think that the PG-13 rating took anything away, it didn't.

I myself was a little bit skeptical but everything you would want in a "Max Payne" movie adaptation is there.

God Sent to perform at CSC

By Jessica Lawrenson
Spartan Staff

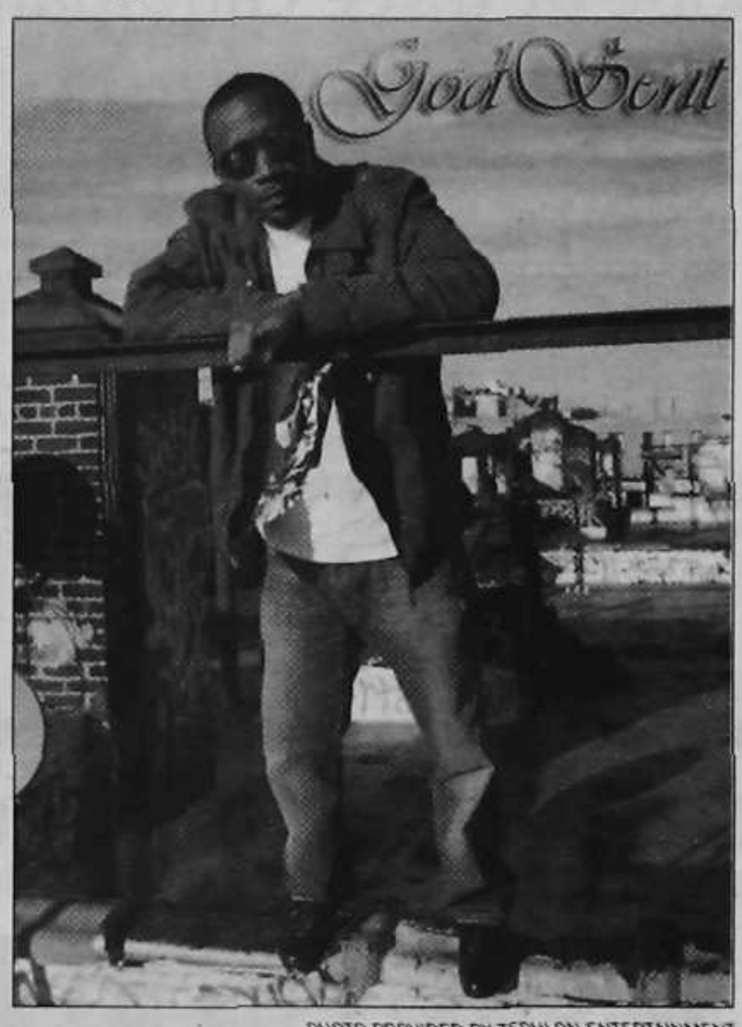


PHOTO PROVIDED BY TEPHLON ENTERTAINMENT

This Thursday there will be a special performance by a rapper named Godsent. Godsent, 25, is from Mullberry, New York.

Godsent got into rapping when he was 15 because of his love for music and that music is his best form of expression.

"Music is my median to get my message out there," he said.

Most of his music is about social concerns, day-to-day feelings, politics and his neighborhood. He stated that anything could be a topic if it matters to him.

When asking what could be expected from his performance, Godsent had said to expect good music, positive energy, and for him to interact with the crowd.

He mentioned that he liked to interact with the crowd and that "once the show starts going it doesn't stop."

Godsent wanted to tell Castleton State College that he is "coming and definitely giving a show."

A company called Tephlon Entertainment represents Godsent. This company works with artists who do not yet have any companies representing them. Tephlon is trying to help these artists have their dreams come true with their love for music.

Godsent's agent says that he is currently working on a mix CD to be released as soon as it is finished recording.

But there are still ways to hear him before the show on Thursday night. Godsent currently has a sample CD out that will be available at Castleton early this week called "Where Is Godsent?" by Tephlon Entertainment.

For all of the people who have Myspace on campus here at Castleton you can get a sneak peak at the music by checking out his Myspace page at www.myspace.com/godsent-tephlon. He also had some music videos on this page like one for his song "Loss for Words."

The show seems like it will be promising and entertaining for music lovers. The performance will be on Thursday night, October 30th in the Fireside Café.

Read The Spartan
WWW.CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM
ONLINE
Another Great Idea from your pals at The Spartan!

SOUNDING OFF

EVENT COUNTDOWN

1 LEFT

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Please contact a Soundings instructor to share your thoughts.

Quotable Lines:

Once in Afghanistan

Question--Why did they make this movie?

"I think they made this movie because right now it is so important for people to see the Afghans as real people who hurt, struggle, cry, and have an overwhelming gratitude towards others." -- Susannah Colburn

Noche de Muertos

Question--Why do Spanish cultures celebrate this day?

"They sing to let the deceased know they have to let go, but at the same time they can still feel their presence. . . . The Mexicans caress death. It's a time for the dead and the living to reunite and celebrate each other." -- Kaitlin Mannigan

Terry Bergen, "Leadership"

Question--Are you a leader?

"Just as I am a leader, so I am a follower. Leadership manifests itself in a variety of ways. Some leaders are calm and collected while others are brash and flamboyant. All of us have leadership capabilities, but not everyone can harness those capabilities when they are needed most." -- Larry Williams

Coming up next

Oct. 30th, 7:00 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, KEYSTONE LECTURE

Robert Kirshner, "Our Expanding Universe"

Harvard Astronomy Professor Robert Kirshner will talk about how our Universe is expanding and what that means to us. He will also shed some light on dark energy, dark matter, and other cosmic matters on which most of us are "in the dark."

Maxin' Chillaxin'

Terry Badman

Breakfast of like, champions

I was at Denny's this morning – sober as a judge.

I ordered up one of those $5.99 breakfast skillets; the ones with the plastic bacon, rubbery scrambled eggs, and a short stack of anorexic looking pancakes.

My lady and I were sitting in an unusually quiet section of the restaurant, sipping our coffees and scoring the taste of a side of synthetic sausage links.

It was nice, calm, soothing.

Halfway through my second cup 'o Joe, a small group of what I can only assume were freshman college girls, invaded the booth beside us.

The silence that had previously settled in our section was suddenly raped out of the air amidst a wave of high-pitched valley girl "likes," "ums," and "omigods."

The blonde girl with the brunette roots then began chattering away at a decibel loud enough to make Spinal Tap proud.

"Like, I was on campus, like, last night, and I had like, a bunch of Bud Light with lime, and, um, Trevor was totally being a prick, and like, he won't answer me back on Facebook, and I don't wanna be a bitch, but, he's being like, a total asshole."

Seriously – she made Sarah Palin sound scholarly.

As shotguns of rage began boiling up in my lady's eyes, we quickly finished up our meals, paid the bill, and walked back to my car shouting our best Elle Woods impressions for all the parking lot to hear.

Now, I bring up this group of bubblegum-chewing tee-hee-heers to illustrate an all too common occurrence in restaurants: stupid f'ing people (SFP).

SFP can arrive in a number of forms, often disrupting the fabric of the mellow chillness that is the eating out experience.

Whether it's someone constantly coughing up their lungs in the seat next to you, or a pushover parent who allows their wretched spawn to whine and cry when Applebees runs out of hotdogs, SFP serve one purpose: ruining your good time.

With the price of going out to eat bordering on obscene in many restaurants (sans Taco Bell), one certainly doesn't want to fork over hard-earned cash in exchange for a miserable evening that molests your wallet and your mentality.

Now, you could let them ruin your otherwise enthralling meal. You could get stabby with a butter knife or drown someone in their Grey Goose martini, but there are other alternatives.

Here's what I recommend.

When some group of drunken frat boys or girly gigglers decides to infest the joint, I suggest a passive aggressive approach. Continue your own conversation at a slightly higher volume, keeping a calm, monotone sense of "above-it-all-ism."

"Yeah, I hate it when people can't hold their booze. What a bunch of jagoffs," you'd say slightly louder than you normally would.

Trust me, I've done this. Drunks hate being called out as sloshed idiots in public — especially freshman.

Got a whiney kid banshee-screaming bloody murder? Do the same. "God, my parents would have cracked my jaw if I pitched a fit like that," or something.

The technique generally works in most situations. People don't like having their own stupidity called out in public, particularly in an arrogant, holier-than-thou sort of way.

But hey, if coming off as a snob means I can enjoy a relaxing meal in peace, than so be it. It's still a better alternative to dunking some loud mouth in the deep fryer.

Most of the time, anyway.

Remember the Hubbardton Raid

Contined from Page 1 . . .

articles explaining the events that took place. Although her knowledge of the "Hubbardton Raid" consists only of what the documents and articles explain, she spoke about how students have reacted after hearing of the raid.

"I've had work study students refuse to work there," said Sanborn. "Students have heard *strange noises from the building*. I myself don't think about it. I've heard the building creak, but old buildings creak."

The antiquated building on Seminary Street holds a lot of history lot for both the college and the town. And while it is now used primarily for meetings and events, surgical tools in glass cases on the first floor give glimpse of its former uses.

Academic Dean Joe Mark called the chapel an important symbol for Castleton.

"The old chapel is an attractive space for meetings, inductions, and classes. It was used as a dormitory throughout the 1920s and '40s and housed music classes in the 1960s. In 1969, the state of Vermont wanted to tear the chapel down and build a Fine Arts Center in its place. The Alumni Association opposed and managed to move the building to its present location and the Fine Arts Center was built," Mark said.

At the mere mention of the "Hubbardton Raid," Mark's eyes instantly lit up with excitement. He talked about the difficulty in finding cadavers during the 1800s and how different ideas were then about the donation of a body for science.

"I have mixed feelings about the events that took place back then. On one side I'm sympathetic because it was so hard to find cadavers, which is critical to the teaching of medical practice. On the other side, it was also a serious violation to the norms of that day. I'm just glad I wasn't dean then," he said.

Students around campus, for the most part, were totally unaware of the infamous body snatching and subsequent raid, and looked dumfounded when told about it.

"I had no clue that something like that went down. Sort of makes you wonder what other kinds of stories Castleton has," said student Ryan Beddie.

"Doesn't surprise me one bit," added his friend, Andrew Rissman. "I always get these weird vibes when I step into that place."

Some students didn't believe it, saying the raid was probably just made up. But others, like freshman Eric Derouchie, almost seemed freighted after hearing the story.

"Wow! That's the craziest thing I've ever heard. That chapel looks so peaceful; it's hard to imagine an angry mob ready to storm in. I'm pretty sure I'll never go in there unless I have to," Derouchie said.

Poll: students swing left

Spartan Poll Results

Total students polled: 91

Obama : 51

McCain: 15

Undecided: 9

Not Registered: 16

Contined from Page 1 . . .

the only reason some students have decided to side with the democrat. Some students voiced opposition to republican Sen. John McCain rather than support for Obama.

"I just didn't get a great impression of him from the debates," said senior Sarah Burke. "The way he reacted, I just don't think that he's going to act well if he were president,"

Undecided junior Jordan Vickers mentioned a similar reason for being undecided. He said he was going to vote for McCain " but his performance in the debates … yeesh," Vickers said.

The McCain voters are vastly outnumbered at CSC, with the results of the poll showing him having only 16 percent of the student body's vote with a total of 15 supporters. But for those who are supporting him, the unifying issue surrounding him is his experience.

"He is a stronger leader and has experience. Experience is key," said Danny Martin.

That message was repeated by student Morgan Sasso.

"He has the experienc Obama doesn't," said Sasso.

Unregistered voters o campus took up an eve greater percentage of our pol than did supporters of McCain Eighteen percent of our pol takers will not be voting at all

One student, who chose t remain nameless, said "I an not registered, I am not going to vote because … it is choos ing the lesser of two evils."

The smallest and fina group who answered our pol was the one represented by registered undecided voters Less than 10 percent of ou poll takers still aren't sure wh they will be casting their vote for come Election Day.

The Harvard University Institute of Politics conducted a national poll of college-aged Americans and found numbers similar to ours. They discovered that 75 percent of students are registered, and of that 55 percent will vote for Barack Obama and 32 percent for McCain.

Students view themselves as leaders

Contined from Page 1 . . .

via slide, "I consider myself a leader: True or False?"

Seventy-five percent said true.

In fact the entire discussion was very hands-on and interactive. While discussing the why's and how's of leadership, Bergen used the different demographics in the audience to further his points.

"I thought the whole thing was fun," said freshmen student, Stephanie Hayeck.

He didn't even get to miffed when the program stopped working - several times no data could be compiled to continue the discussion. For instance, he knew from the instant polling that 75 percent of the audience considered themselves leaders, but he could no longer find out from previous questions what part of that percentile were women.

Bergen went on to entertain his audience with creative discussion.

"These are my emerging leaders," he said, as the slide showed three young children, all in karate uniforms, his martial arts students.

"Destiny," Bergen said about the 8-year-old girl pictured, who he asked to lead his martial arts class.

"Oh sensei, I don't want to be bossy," he said. Then he paused and looked around, "but do you have to be bossy to be a leader?

The decision was decidedly no, but that type of example from his own life was one of many that kept his audience roped in.

He then went on to talk about the bullying program he put in place at Poultney High School, and how it eventually transformed into what is now the Applied Behavioral Analysis class, and their leadership program.

Bergen initially got his idea from a police department across the country, in Oakland California. To prevent police brutality, an inventive program was put in place: assemble the most brutal cops, describe the problem of brutality on the, convince those officers they are experts on police brutality, and finally get them to address the problem with other brutal officers.

By getting the most vicious cops on the force to learn about brutality not through discipline, but by giving them the responsibility over other brutal cops, the brutality rate in Oakland plummeted.

Bergen decided to use the same method in Poultney, substituting the brutal officers for the in-school bullies. The program was a huge success, there was an "enormous decrease in student visits to the dean's office," said Bergen.

Concluding the lecture, one couldn't help but wonder if Bergen's metaphors and allegories about leadership changed anyone's perspective.

Did the students take anything out of the leadership lecture? Was their perspective changed?

He polled them again: are they leaders now?

Eighty-nine percent said yes.

Douglas is one of three candidates running for Vermont governor

Contined from Page 1 . . .

but we'll get through it like we always have in the past," he said. "Vermonter's will respond … I am really optimistic that we'll make sure nobody freezes or starves during the coming winter."

Douglas said Vermonters need to "position ourselves to recover." He went on to lay out his plan to create more jobs and said that Vermont had the second lowest unemployment in the northeast, which he does not expect to rise.

"We have 10,000 more new jobs than we did five years ago, we're moving in the right direction," he said.

He said that, "contrary to what other candidates would have you believe" there are more professional jobs in the region. He bragged about the software development firms in Chittenden County and said Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie has been trying to lure some big software companies to the state Vermont. He said one of the nation's fastest growing technology companies is ITECH in Burlington.

He spoke about the sale of Vermont Castings, and how the state helped save the company with the Vermont Economic Growth Incentive.

"We provide a little extra push to help companies that provide jobs in green industries … That initiative made the difference not only in keeping the 225 jobs in Bethel but, bringing 62 more." Douglas said.

"These are tuff times but, we've had some success and I hope and believe we will have more if I can persuade the general assembly to pass my new economic growth plan during the first 100 days of the session that begins in January," Douglas said.

Douglas ended with comments showing confidence in his abilities, but also with a plea for voters to get to the polls so he has the chance to use those abilities.

"The point is, we can put programs in place that create jobs, and save jobs, and move things in the right direction … We have to get out the vote because republicans kind of swims upstream in Vermont, and we can't do that with out your generous support," he said.

Inside Sports

Field hockey team ends tied for first

By Annie Hartman

The Castleton women's field hockey team concluded its season with a 2-1 win over the University of Maine Farmington Saturday afternoon, Oct. 25.

The lady Spartans attacked immediately, scoring both goals in the first half.

Carolyn Griggs scored the first goal of the game and her 18th goal of the season with 25:11 remaining in the half. Farmington's goalie, Kaeleigh Barker, failed to clear a shot from the circle and Griggs capitalized on the error. Griggs lifted a shot over Barker, who was diving for the save. Moments later, Griggs received an assist on a goal that Kayla Blank snuck past Barker. Griggs fired a shot from the top of the circle. Blank deflected the shot into the goal, giving Castleton an early 2-0 lead and giving Blank her 19th goal of the year.

Farmington came back strong in the second half, looking for revenge on the red-hot Spartans.

Alyssa St. Pierre finally found a hole in the Spartan defense, lifting a shot over Castleton goalie, Trisha Clark, with 13:14 remaining in the game. The remainder of the half would be taxing on the Castleton defense as the Farmington offense pressured the circle constantly.

After a timeout called by Farmington with two minutes remaining, St. Pierre had another chance to tie the game. But her efforts were halted by the solid, relentless Spartan defense. Farmington rifled off a shot, but it was off target.

Clark had eight saves in the game, including two outstanding saves in the second half that she laid out for, battling the attacking sticks of the Farmington offense. Her saves were the key in preventing the Beavers from making a last-minute comeback.

The Spartans' victory *wrapped up their season with a* 12-7 regular season record and a 5-1 North Atlantic Conference record. Castleton and Farmington (8-7, 5-1 NAC) are tied at the top of the standings as the postseason approaches. Upcoming pairings will determine where the teams will travel and when for the NAC tournament.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Patricia Watson tries to sneak one past the UMaine Farmington goalie.

Women's soccer team moves to post season

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Maria Arnot chases down the ball.

By James Dahlgard
Spartan Staff

The Castleton women's soccer team finished its season at 11-7 this past weekend with a boosting win over Johnson State College 9-0 to bring their NAC record to 6-1.

The team has been very well balanced since the beginning of the season, scoring 49 goals and only letting in 19. The team is also well conditioned coming into the second period of their games, scoring almost half their goals in that time.

Last Saturday, Oct. 25, *against Johnson, the Spartans* looked very strong and well coached as they scored 9 goals on their way to a big victory.

Courtney Chadburn helped the team as she has all season, scoring two goals and assisting another. She finished her season with 21 goals and 10 assists. Following her in the contest was Kelly Gerken with another pair of goals.

The win against Johnson gave Castleton a good enough record to finish 2nd in the NAC going into the playoffs. This record gave the Spartans a bye week for the quarterfinals.

The team will again look for strong play out of Courtney Chadburn and Maria Arnot to win a NAC title.

The semifinal game will be *on November 2nd after the* quarterfinal teams battle for a spot in the final four.

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question

What are you going to be for Halloween?

JOSH OVASKA

I'm going to be a prisoner and Rosco (my dog), is going to be a chick magnet.

Maggie Seiple

Wednesday from The Adams Family, not because I want to, but because I have to.

Brian Fazekas

I'm going to be Hugh Hefner.. Silk pajamas and I'm gonna try and find a grey wig.

BECKY BLODGETT

Probably nothing. I don't really dress up.

PATRICK DUFFY

Part of a chess team. We want to be nerds.

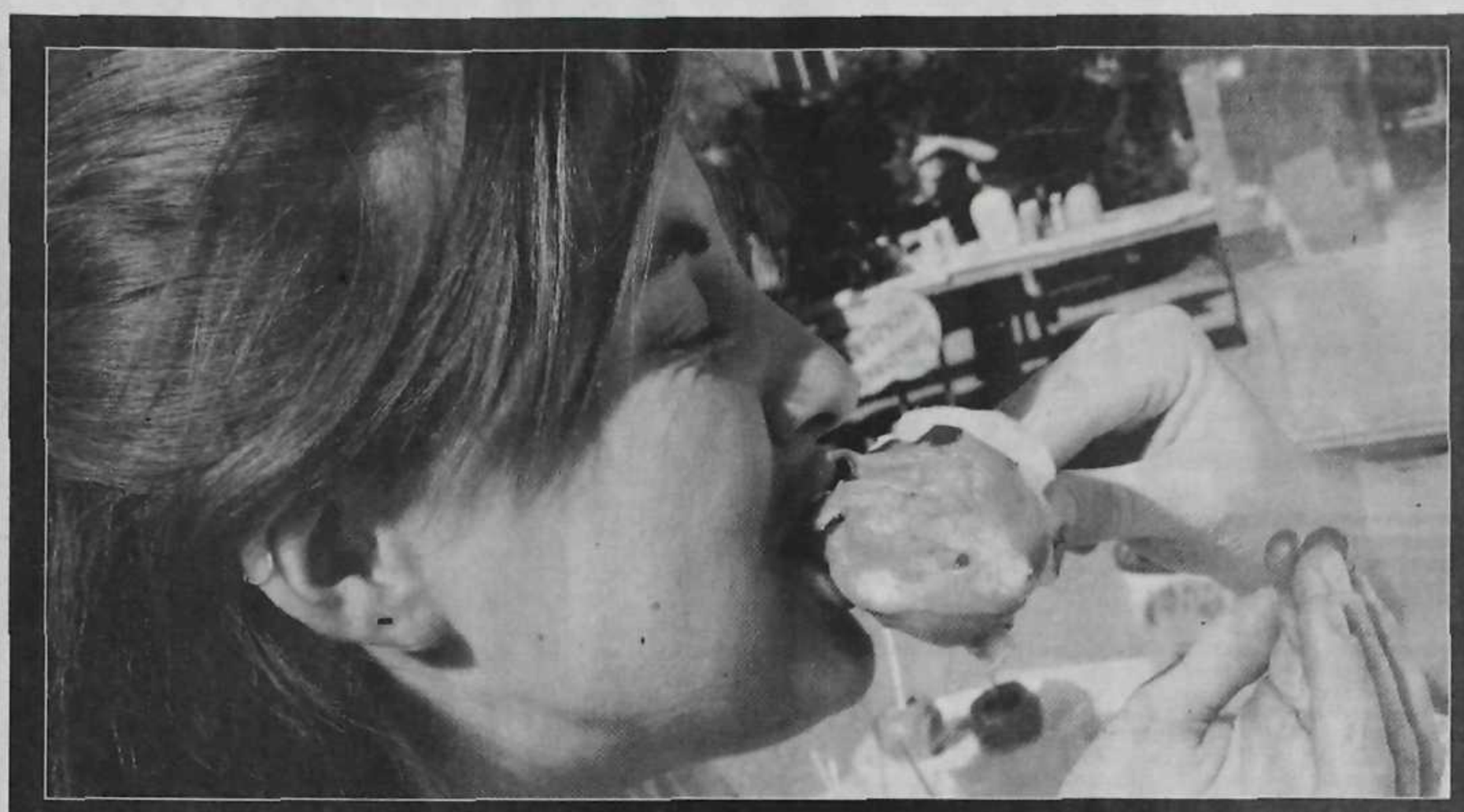


PHOTO BY WYATT ALDISIO

A student takes a bite out of a caramel covered apple at a recent campus festival.

Apples and skulls and puppy dogs, oh my!

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

Day of the Dead display in Leavenworth Hall.

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE

Woodruff Hall at night.

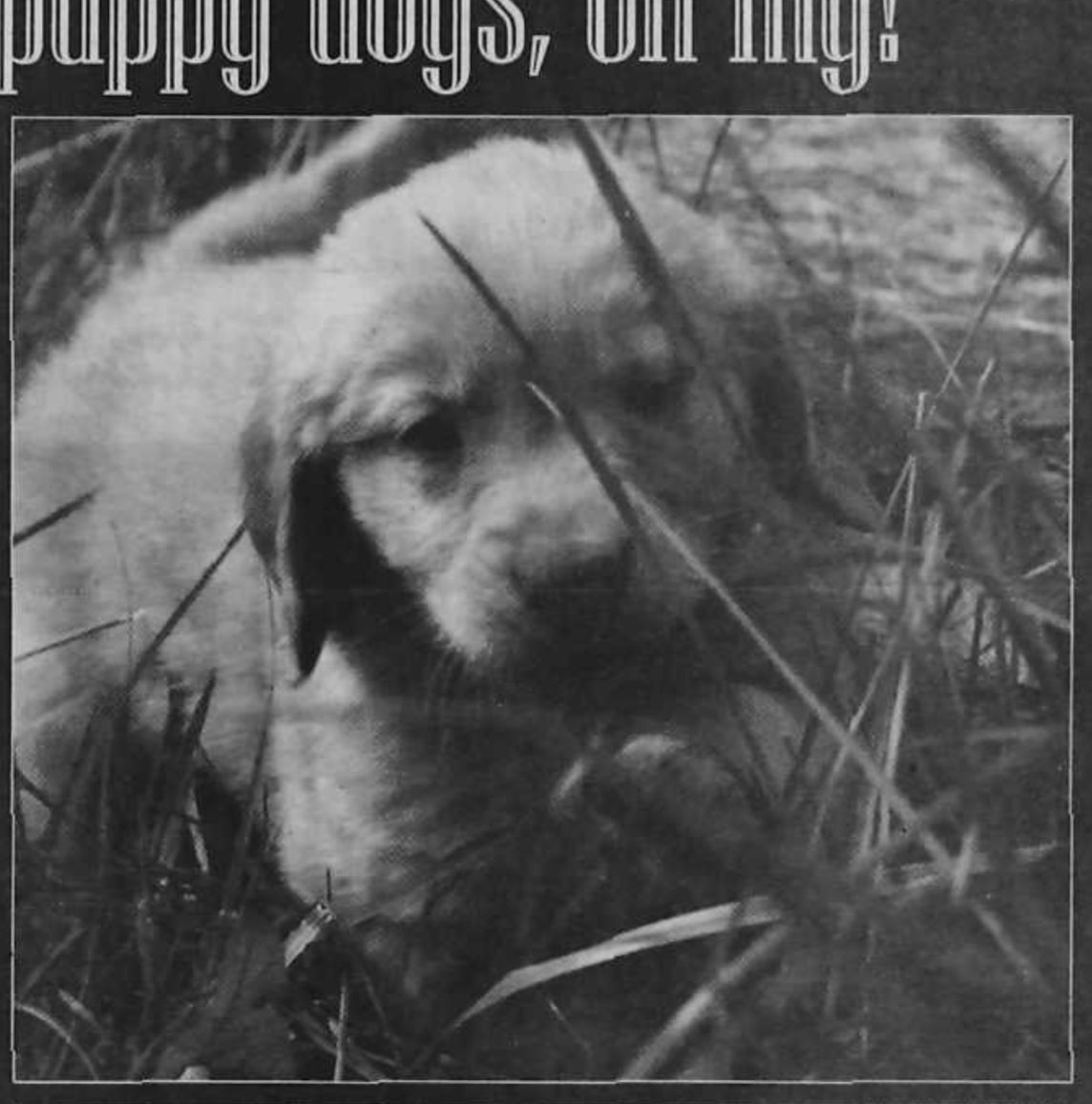


PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Ace Shramek frollics through the "tall" grass.

Nice to meet:

Claudio Pinto

By Wendy Young

Claudio Eduardo Pinto is one of the teaching assistants for the Spanish department. He is from Peru, and has been in the United States for 2 months.

When did you start learning English, and was it hard to keep up?

When I was nine or ten years old. I taught English for three and a half years [while at the University]

Even after having learned English, was it difficult to understand people talking at first?

A little. Slang is the first thing you have to learn here, I think.

You teach the salsa classes on Tuesday? How long have you been dancing?

Yes. I've been dancing for twelve years. I took classes of folk [from latin] and theatre.

How did you end up here, at Castleton?

I got the Fullbright Scholarship; they sent my information to various schools and Castleton picked me. One of my best friends was here four years ago.

What is your major and how long have you wanted to do that?

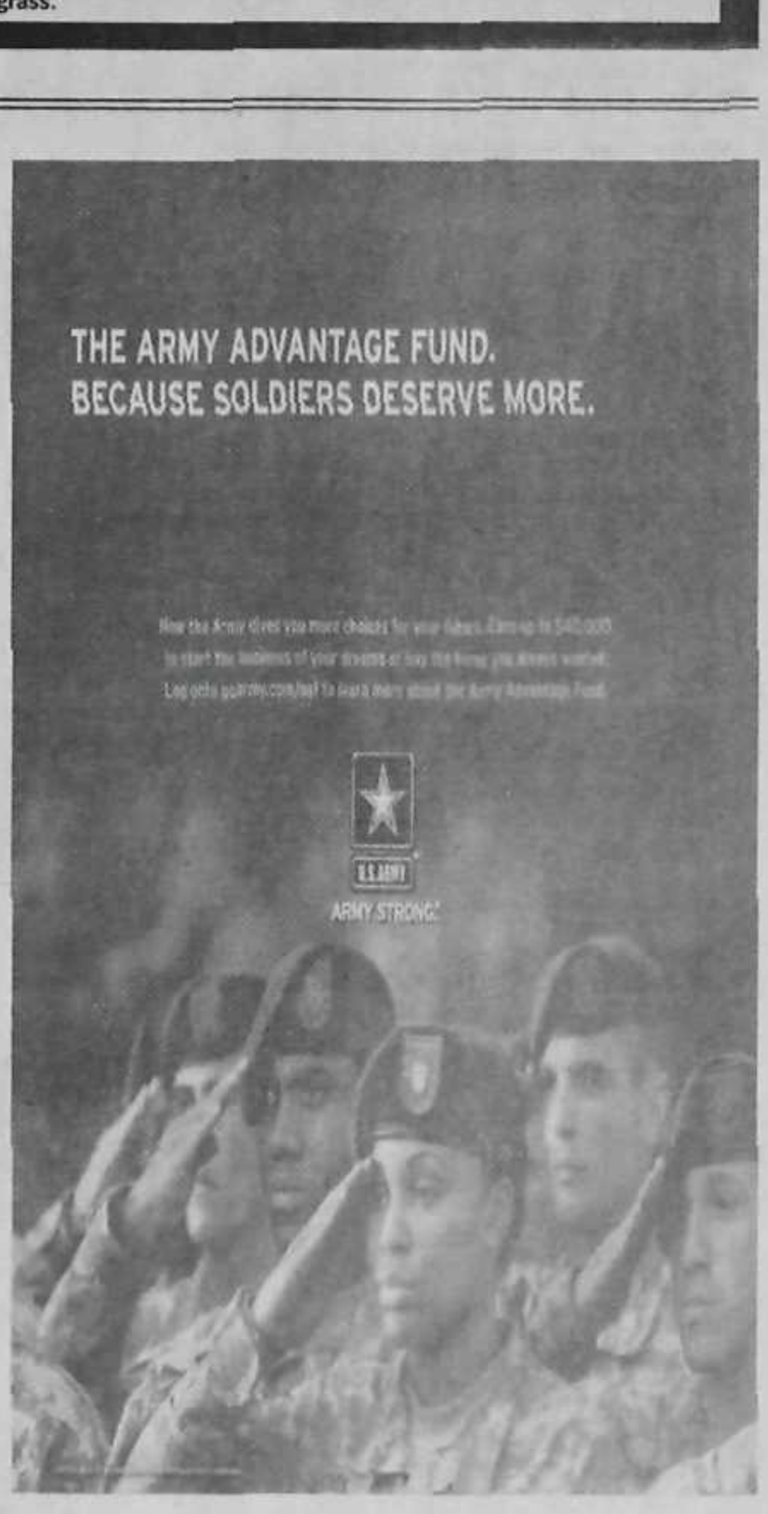
Systems Engineering/Computer Science. I've been interested in computers since after high school.

What are some classes you're taking?

British Detective Fiction and French.

Are you going back home for Christmas? What is the first thing you'll do?

Yes. I'm going to see all my friends and hang out. I'll dance salsa.



Tennis team, definition of perfection

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Michelle Podnecky dominates in tournament play.

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Spartan women's tennis team completed its bid for a perfect season on Saturday, Oct. 18, when it defeated Lyndon and Johnson State Colleges in the Vermont State Colleges tournament.

The Spartans dominated their competition in the VSC tournament just as they had done throughout the regular season. The Spartans lost only one match during the tournament, earning 17 wins, while Lyndon and Johnson each earned just four wins.

Michelle Podnecky defeated Lyndon's Jennifer Falsetti 11-9 in first flight singles. She then defeated Johnson's Chelsie O'Connell 10-4.

In the only match loss of the day for the Spartans, captain Charla Klaas was defeated by Lyndon's Sue Promphong 10-7 in second flight singles. Klass would later defeat Johnson's Rebecca Quarentiello 10-1.

Kate Bucci won both of her matches in third flight singles with scores of 10-0 against Lyndon and 10-2 against Johnson.

In fourth and fifth flight singles, Emily Hallett and Brittni Racine each picked up match wins for the Spartans.

Morgan Reuter was given two default match wins in sixth flight singles.

With their wins in the VSC tournament, Podnecky and Bucci finished their season undefeated in singles play.

"Being individually undefeated in singles was a huge plus," said Bucci. "After the Colby-Sawyer tournament, I was a little nervous about the season. My goal was just to split my wins and losses, but going undefeated works too."

In doubles play, the Spartan pairings of Podnecky and Bucci, Klaas and Hallett, and Reuter and Emily Bisson swept Lyndon and Johnson.

"As captain of the team, I love each and every one of the girls I play with," said Klaas. "The team as a whole is a very unified group of girls, and I am indescribably proud of them and their accomplishments this season."

The VSC tournament was a perfect ending to an exceptional season in the mind of head coach Paul Cohen, but not his favorite memory of the undefeated season.

Cohen explained that the highlight for him was defeating Plymouth State University at Plymouth for the first time ever after the Panthers had dominated the Spartans in a preseason invitational.

Cohen explained that Bucci and Podnecky, two freshmen, had been put on the "grandstand" court in their first collegiate match, something he seemed to think was unfair to the young players. The duo was defeated in doubles play 8-1 in that invitational.

When the Spartans faced Plymouth again on Sept. 23, they were ready for payback.

The Spartans earned key doubles victories from Bucci and Podnecky, Klaas and Hallett, and Racine and Mary Kay Capone, which, according to Cohen, "helped spark Castleton to a 7-2 win."

Cohen said that going back to Plymouth and winning the match with authority was great "redemption" for the Spartans.

"Beating Plymouth State University on their courts was, in my mind, the pinnacle of our season," he said.

Bucci agreed with her coach.

"The highlight of this [season] was definitely beating Plymouth in doubles. That was the best feeling because we had originally lost to them in the pre-season tournament," she said.

Despite fellow North Atlantic Conference teams Becker and Bay Path Colleges dropping out of the NAC earlier this season, Cohen hopes that the NAC will be at full strength in time for the start of next season so that tennis can have a NAC championship once again.

PHOTO BY ENIS DULING

Charla Klaas returns a shot in a recent match.

Even without his team playing in a NAC championship this season, Cohen feels that the team is leading the conference.

"In my mind, this team has reclaimed our conference title, and it did so with tremendous poise and good sportsmanship," he said.

Now that the season is over, the Spartans look to continue their winning ways next season but, they hope, against a tougher schedule, according to Cohen.

"You get better by playing better competition. I like getting input from returning players regarding what they would like to see in the upcoming season," Cohen said. "I think the consensus will be to try to book a more challenging schedule next year."

Sports Column

Matt Linden

With the presidential election less than a week away, the candidates are continuing to tackle our country's most important issues and have both discussed how they would improve the economy. But are they really addressing the issue that affects individuals like you and me every single year?

While we watch an inexperienced Vice Presidential nominee use scare tactics to build support for a campaign, the American public is forgetting about the type of change our country has needed for the last 15-20 years.

And that, my friends, is the adoption of a playoff system in Division I college football.

Since its inception in 1902, bowl games had been the sport's version of a postseason and helped determine who wins the national championship. These bowls used to be a reward for the year's top teams because there was only a selective amount of bowl games, but now there are 32 bowl games and the majority of them are practically meaningless. Does anyone really care who wins the Meineke Car Care Bowl or the Emerald Bowl?

The installment of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) in 1998 was apparently designed to place the two best teams in the national championship game. At the end of each season, there are always three or more teams with a strong case to play in the title game and the BCS annually gives teams the shaft. There are ways to incorporate more than two teams playing for the national title, and college football just needs to look at other sports in order to find a fair and structured playoff system.

In each of the major team sports, a team has to win a certain amount of playoff games to win the championship. In college basketball, which has the most exciting playoff system and gives 65 teams an equal chance at the national title, you would have to win six tournament games. In hockey, you have to win four seven-game series to get the honor of lifting Lord Stanley's Cup.

College football obviously needs to reorganize its postseason and how to determine a national champion, and I would like to propose a playoff system that would finally put an end to this significant issue. First, you need to get rid of the conference championship games and determine the conference champions by the teams' records. Not every conference has these games at the end of the 12-game regular season, so why not just wipe them out entirely. The whole BCS ranking system and its ridiculous bowl games also have to go, due to its irrelevance in truly finding a national champion.

My proposed system takes 12 teams and puts them into a playoff format that gives teams in smaller conferences a chance at playing for the national championship. The winners of the six major conferences – ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, Pac 10 and SEC – will get an automatic bid to the playoffs. The final six teams chosen for the playoffs will be determined by a combination of the polls and a panel of neutral college football experts, which provides us with enough information to accurately choose the six best teams who did not win one of those major conference titles. Once you have your 12 teams, you rank them from top to bottom and give the top four teams a first-round bye.

Basically, this playoff system is no different than how the NFL determines the Super Bowl winner and would be exciting to watch. I really believe college football would benefit from a playoff and so would each of the Division I schools.

I am Matt Linden, and I approve this message.

Bold Prediction of the Week: Barack Obama will win the Presidential election.

Rugby team scrums its way into semis

PHOTO BY CHAD CIOFFI

Rugby team beats Johnson State in the quarter finals

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

From the beginning of the game it was apparent this was the opening matchup for the New England Rugby Football Union playoffs. There was a different energy on the Spartan sidelines, now playing in a do or die situation. Castleton rugby has played flawless thus far, having very little pressure put against it, never once playing from behind. Saturday held different adversities for the Spartans to overcome, challenges that would determine another week of existence in the single elimination tournament.

Castleton fell behind in the beginning of the game, going down by three points. The Spartans regained the lead and never let it go. Castleton ran on to a 39-13 win, and another week with home field advantage. All season the team has pounded down the opposing team, making it look effortless. At Gawet Memorial Field the victory was anything but emotionless, each player gladly giving their blood, sweat, and anything else they could to contribute to the victory.

"I think we've been working harder today than usual," said Ed MacEnulty during the second halves final minutes. "We were disappointed with last year, we're trying a lot harder to not fall victim to making it this far and not finishing it out."

The hard work did not go unnoticed, by the fans, or Coach Patrick "Slim" Ainsworth. He paced up and down the sidelines in a cowboy hat, praising his players for their play, and adjusting their positioning on the field. The players call Ainsworth, Slim. The chemistry the players have with him is just as strong as the one they have with each other.

"It's a result of hard work," Slim said. Adding, "I've coached several players for the last four years, it's starting to really come together this year." Also attributing the off field chemistry as a big factor in the teams success.

By games end against Johnson the muddy, and worn down Spartans gathers in a large circle. They cheered for the official, the opposition, and then themselves. The two a days are nothing but a fuzzy preseason memory now, as Castleton advances to another semifinal matchup.

"We come out and play our game. A lot of our guys our athletic," said Brendan Lacaillade. "We have a lot of camaraderie, we're brothers."

Castleton will play host to the NERFU semifinal matchup next Saturday. The Spartan rugby team will try to remain unbeaten and continue the perfect execution on the field. The NERFU title is one week closer to a talented group of brothers, fighting to remain the leagues beast.

Men head to NAC tourney

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Ryan Hahn goes up for a header against Plymouth State.

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Spartan men's soccer team finished its regular season Saturday, Oct. 25, with a 5-0 win over its North Atlantic Conference and instate rival Johnson State College.

Jacob Ferry and Sean Fitzgerald led the Spartan offense, each scoring two goals.

The Spartans got on the board early against the Badgers, scoring only 12 minutes into the game, when Ferry netted his third goal of season.

Fitzgerald doubled the Spartans' lead when he added an unassisted goal of his own in the 34th minute.

Halftime didn't slow the Spartans down any as Fitzgerald punched in his second goal of the game just 45 seconds into the second half. Ferry, not content with one goal, pushed across his second goal of the game off of a Josh Costa assist 26 minutes later.

Nick Harriman also tacked on a goal for the Spartans when he scored his first collegiate goal.

The Spartan offense outshot the Badgers 20-7.

Spartan keeper Mike Anthony was credited with the shutout. He made three saves for the Spartans.

"Five nice goals and a solid defensive effort. [Johnson is] not an easy place to play, so any win there is a good one," said head coach John Werner.

The team, 6-1 in North Atlantic Conference play, will now turn its attention to the NAC playoffs. The defending champion Spartan team is ranked second this postseason, behind only Husson, which is 7-0 in the NAC. In the regular season, Husson defeated the Spartans 1-0.

Because the Spartans finished this season second in the NAC, they earned a bye this week, automatically placing them in the NAC semifinals next Saturday.

The time and place of the NAC semifinal game has yet to be announced.

XC team limps into NACs

By Kyle Turner
Spartan Staff

Featuring twenty-six Men's teams and twenty-four women's teams, the Saratoga Invitational did not go too well for both our Men's and Women's Cross Country teams. The Men's team came in 21st place out of the 26 teams that were there. With a total time of 2 hours 26 minutes and 49 seconds and an average time of 29 minutes and 21.80 seconds the Men's team racked up a score of 603 points which was 541 points away from the first place team, Keene State College. The first member of the Men's team to finish for the Spartans was junior, Jeffery Paul, who came in with a time of 28 minutes and 27 seconds with a 5 minute and 44 second average mile run.

The Women's Cross Country team finished with a time of 1 hour 44 minutes and 27 seconds which put them in 18th place. Their average time was 20 minutes and 53.40 seconds. The team finished with a point total of 506 which was 441 points off from the first place team, St. Lawrence University. To most, it may not seem as if the teams did that well in this invitational, but any meet where a team does not finish in last place is kind of like a win. "They had a great meet," Coach Blair Marelli said about his team's performance at the Saratoga Invitational. "Now we just have to get ready for the NAC Championships."

The NAC Championships will be held at Johnson State on November 1st with the Women's team starting at 11:00 A.M. and the Men's team starting at 12:00 P.M.

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

Jeff Paul

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 4: Taco Bell fajita feeding frenzy

Page 5: Duane Carleton melts faces at Fireside

Page 7: Halloween at CSC

INDEX

Editorial.....Page 2
Why I'll be missing Dubya

News.....Page 3-4
Loving living in sin

A&E.....Page 5
The grooves of Duane Carleton

Front & Back.....Page 6
CSC veterans recall wars abroad

On Campus.....Page 7
Bagpipes be playin'

Sports.....Page 8
Spartans compete in NAC tournaments

Coming Next Issue

Lights! Camera! Construction!

The Communication department prepares for its extreme makeover.

Obama elected, students celebrate

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

It was a night for beers, cheers, and tears.

Castleton students gathered en masse into the cramped but cozy quarters of Huden's Spartan Room for a special Presidential Election "Pub Night" on Nov. 4., hoping to partake in what would ultimately become a monumental event in American history.

Students began filing into the Spartan Room around 10 p.m. and quickly brought the event to a standing room only capacity.

Pizza and other refreshments, including alcohol, were served as jazzy tunes echoed throughout the dimly lit room. Students chattered and casually mingled away through the 10 o'clock hour.

But at 11 p.m., the focus of those in the room shifted to the large, flat panel, television screen that adorned one of the Spartan Room walls.

The words on the screen sparked the room into an eruption of pandemonium and clamorous joy.

"Barack Obama Elected President."

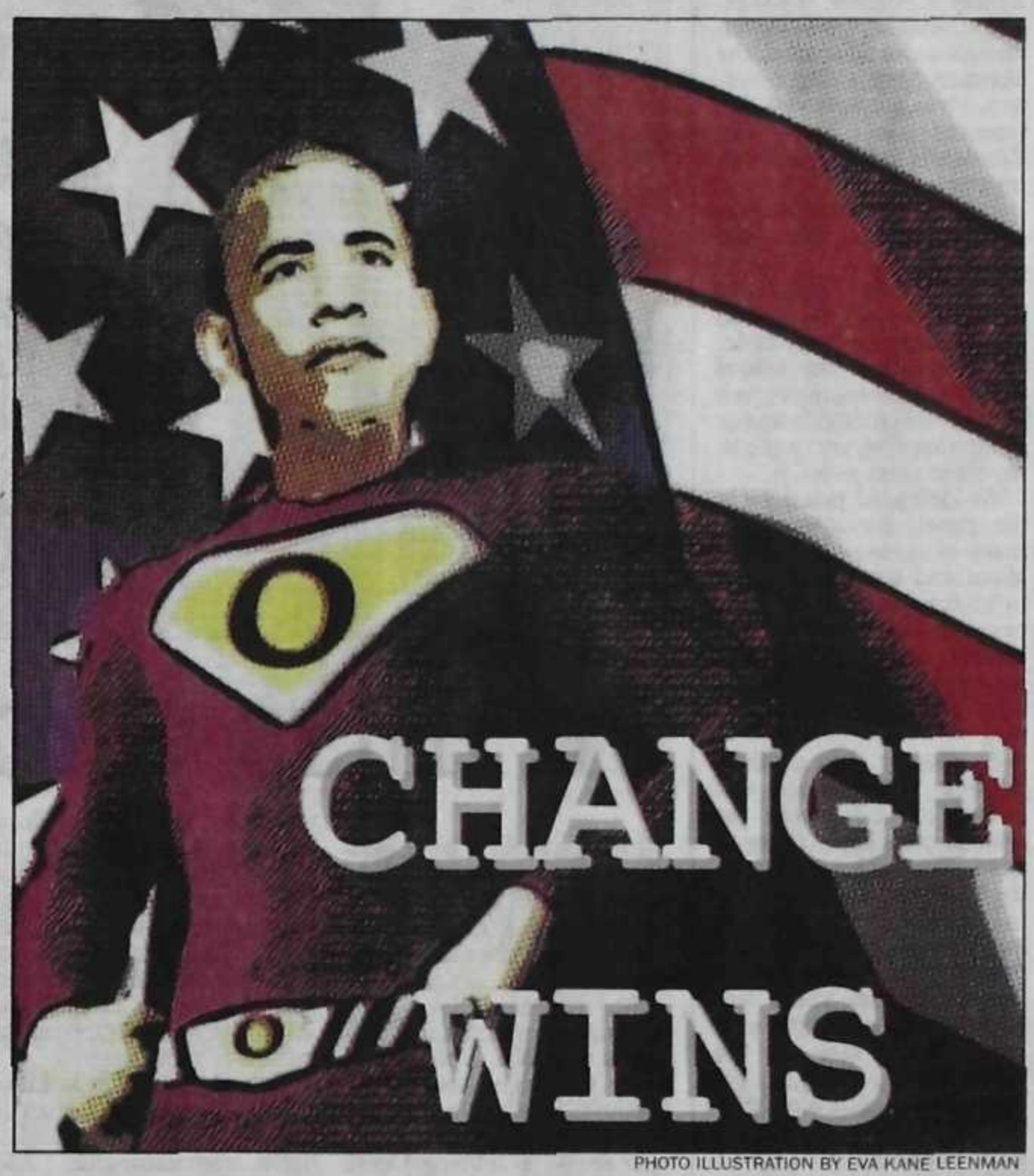


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

Students leapt out of their chairs, screaming hoots and hollers of happiness. Beer glasses were raised and rounds of high-fives and hugs swept through the crowd. The roar of uniform hand clapping sent thunderous reverberations through the tables and chairs in the room.

Some students cried through their glowing smiles, dabbing away their tears with table napkins. Others immediately hopped on their cell phones and dialed up those they held dearest — or those they felt like gloating to.

Anonymous shouts of "we don't suck anymore!" and

Continued on page 6 . . .

Are Castleton conservatives oppressed for their views?

Jeff Giegler
Contributing Writer

Castleton State College conservative students are standing up to try to level the playing field on campus that they see as very liberally slanted – and they've done so by starting the Conservative Club.

The club's recently completed constitution states that, "the purpose of this organization shall be to establish a conservative base on campus to help make Castleton's campus more balanced politically. Furthermore, this organization shall allow republicans and conservatives on campus a place to share ideas and political opinions while also promoting conservative and republican ideals and hold events sponsoring these beliefs and ideals."

"A couple of my friends got thinking since it is a liberal campus, students should be able to come together to establish a conservative base," said Ian Kilburn, initiator and vice president of the club.

Although students and professors have different political views, some say political diversity on cam-

Continued on page 6 . . .

Skiers feeling the itch

By Shelby LaCroix
Spartan Staff

A foot of snow works wonders in making mountain-goers happy.

Prompted by Mother Nature, Killington Ski Resort opened its slopes two weeks ahead of schedule on Nov. 2. After receiving 11 inches of natural snow at the mountain's peak, top-of-the-line snow blowers did the rest in creating a solid 20-inch base and over 1,700 feet of vertical terrain.

In the time leading up to Killington's opening, the "skier's itch" was almost too much to handle for some. Students and professors alike were feeling the change in climate, begging for a blanket of white. With snow falling twice in the weeks before Halloween, many were hoping it would stick so riding could begin.

"I've been looking forward to it since the end of last season, of course," said Tom McGee, a sophomore at Castleton.

With teasing temperatures hopping between mild and bitterly cold over the last few weeks, it would have been hard to predict that the mountain would open so early.

Although Killington boasts having just under 1,500 snow guns, the company made it clear early on that it had no intention of opening early.

But that didn't stop an email from being sent out on Oct. 31 – Halloween — informing anyone who cared that Killington would be open that weekend.

The word soon got out and hundreds of die-hard skiers and snowboarders made their way to the slopes on that Sunday.

The trails were a first-day frenzy. Smiles on the faces of snow bunnies were a given, judging by the beautiful blue skies overhead.

Unlike any average opening day, Nov. 1 was crisp, cool, and sunny — the ideal spring day, five months ahead of time. Even loyal fans of other area mountains, including Sugarbush and Okemo, beamed excitedly as the K-1 gondola brought them to the top for their first runs of the day.

Continued on page 6 . . .

PHOTO BY CHRIS DANFORTH

John Lamb, a long time Killington ski instructor catches some air.

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

A wounded soldier receives medical attention in the film "Bagdahd ER."

CSC vets come home, share stories

By Laura Olson
Spartan Staff

The Castleton campus during N-period has a usual routine of meals, meetings, and mingling, but on Oct. 30, the doors of Herrick Auditorium opened to a war zone.

Members of the History and Politics Club, the History Department faculty, and the Communication Department collaborated to present a special teach-in featuring a 30-minute clip of Jon Alpert's award-winning documentary "Baghdad ER" followed by a panel of Vermont college students who served in the military with stories to tell.

Communication professor and Vietnam veteran Thomas Conroy prefaced the teach-in by discussing the importance of being informed.

"Knowledge doesn't come from Katie Couric, Anderson Cooper, Bill O'Reilly, or even Jon Stewart," Conroy said. "We need to hear the perspective of those who know, those who experienced war. And no one knows war like a veteran."

Conroy went on to introduce the film, which chronicled the daily routine of the 86th Combat Support Hospital [CSH] back in the summer of 2005. This hospital is renowned for being the U.S. Army's premier medical facility in Iraq and continues to receive the majority of war-related injuries.

The film began with the image of an injured soldier lying motionlessly on a hospital bed while his comrades pin a Purple Heart badge on his uniform.

The opening montage continues with horrific images and statistics — bloody soldiers on gurneys, hospital workers holding up missing

> *"YOU REALLY SEE THE HORRORS OF WHAT MAN CAN DO TO MAN."*
>
> COL. CASPER P. JONES

body parts, and the sobering statistic of 90 percent of U.S. soldiers being wounded in Iraq that year.

In one of many interviews conducted on film, Col. Casper P. Jones III from Gary, Ind. commented on the experience of working in a military hospital.

"You really see the horrors of what man can do to man," Jones said.

The documentary went on to chronicle touching moments of camaraderie shared by the troops, which made it even more heartbreaking when it showed their reactions to losing a comrade.

Many members of the audience would cover their mouths at the mourning of fallen soldiers and cringe at the uncensored gore of amputations and I.E.D. injuries, effectively giving the public, whose perception of the war is usually determined by tame news coverage, a hard-hitting glimpse of reality.

As the film ended on the poignant image of two injured soldiers holding hands in hospital beds to band together over their recently-deceased companion, the panel of student veterans got a chance to enlighten the audience on their experiences.

The first was Robert Bromley, a Danby native and senior nursing major at Castleton, served with the U.S. Army Reserve as a medic in Tikrit, Iraq from August 2007 through June 2008.

Bromley likened his experience in the Critical Care Unit with that in the documentary.

"It was hard sometimes seeing bodies and severe

Continued on page 6 . . .

The spirit of competition

It's probably not a shocking revelation that our culture thrives on competition. We get the competitive urge in almost everything, whether it's our academics, jobs, sports, or theater.

The recent presidential election brought out intense competition in not only the candidates, but also their supporters. In the weeks leading up to the election, debates broke out in classes that had nothing to do with politics.

Students who supported McCain would send their Facebook friends who supported Obama a button or a sticker supporting McCain and vice versa.

The day after the election, I even saw an Obama supporter walk into one of my classes and smile, exclaiming iIn your face!i while gesturing toward a brooding McCain supporter.

These examples are tame compared to what we see on TV with reality and game shows that always boil down to winning being the ultimate goal.

Whether it's a cutthroat competition to vie for someone's affection, or contestants subjecting themselves to eating creatures most of us only see in our nightmares, we come to understand that people will go to unimaginable lengths to be deemed a winner.

Now, I wouldn't really consider myself a competitive person, at least not by those standards; but I did come to realize something interesting and actually pretty funny about what competition does to most people, which might be why it's so popular.

Those of you who live on campus may have heard your CA's groaning on Halloween weekend about how early we had to be up for a Residence Life conference at Lyndon State. In light of the fact that Friday was Halloween and some of us were on duty until 2 A.M., the 5 A.M. wake-up call and 6 A.M. departure was not exactly popular among the staff.

To say that a 5 A.M. wake-up call and bus ride is the hardest part of the CA job would be a dreadful understatement, but it definitely lit the fuse on a number of issues we've been having in the past rebuilding year.

The 34 of us tend to vent to each other when we need to as to not drag others into it and this morning, as most of us were running on only a few hours of sleep, the venting was at an all-time high.

The funny part, though, was after we got to Lyndon. It was Castleton, Lyndon, and Johnson, and even though we're all apart of the Vermont State College system, there are still vast differences in how our Residence Life departments operate.

Part of the conference was sharing policies, ideas, and strategies.

Suddenly, any time it was Castleton's turn to speak, bring something to the table, or anyone from our school was in the spotlight, an enthusiasm erupted from our group that I've yet to see in my three years as a CA.

We defended practices in the panel discussions that many of us have complained about and were determined to be the school, in spite of our exhaustion, to be the loudest presence. (For the record, Lyndon and Johnson were doing the same thing, too).

As soon as even a subtly implied competition was brought to the forefront, the attitude completely changed from ithis sucksi to iwe're the best.i

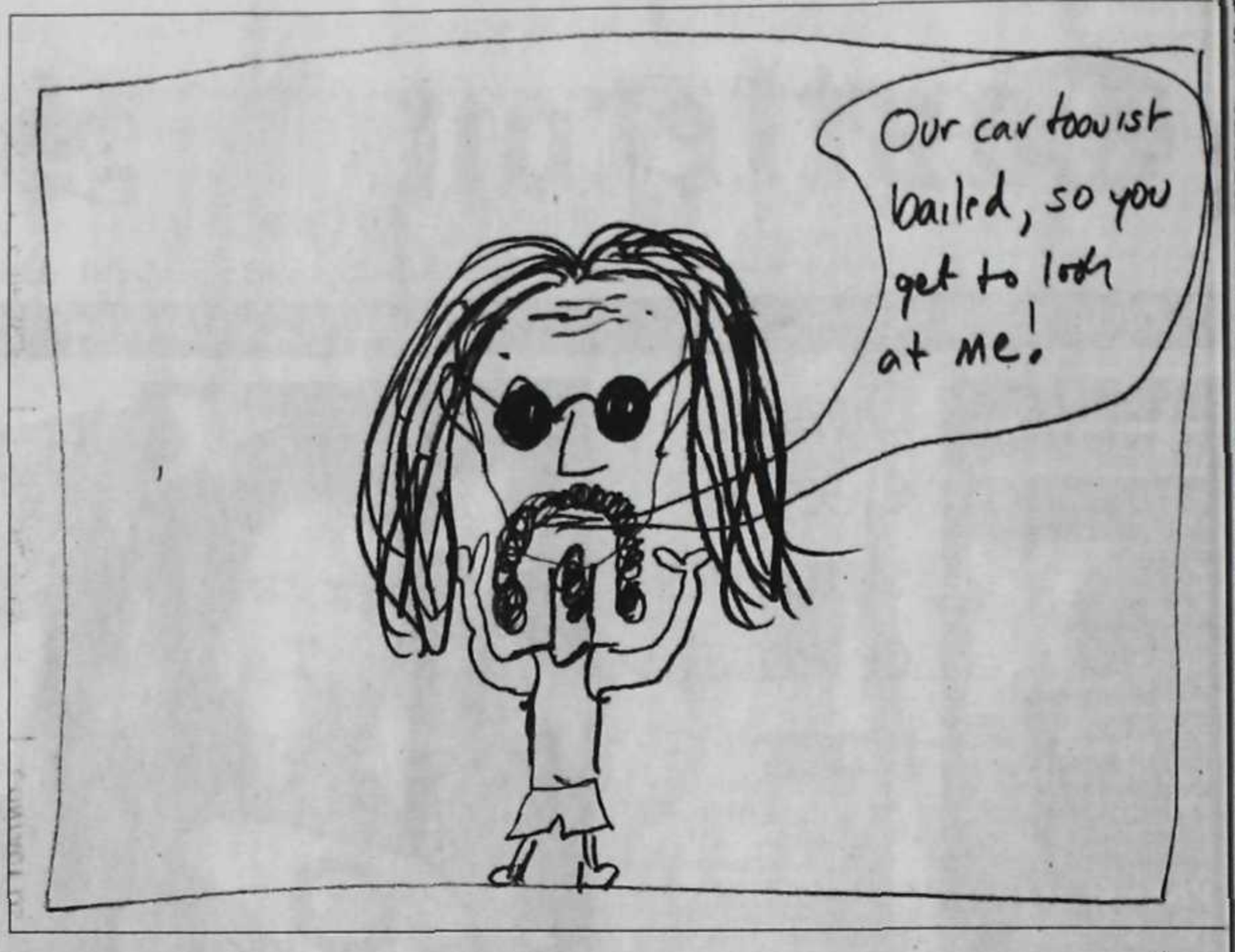
I can see the same thing happening once football finally comes to Castleton. It's clear that there are already a lot of people who aren't huge fans of the prospect of football, but I'd be pretty shocked if most of the campus isn't going to gloat about our prospective success when it gets down to it.

So, at the end of the day, is competition just a quick self-esteem boost? Some sort of vindication that everyone seeks out?

I think it'd be pretty cool if we could see all the good things about our jobs, sports teams and abilities overall without having to put them to the test against other people's.

I can dream anyway, can't I?

— Laura Olson



I'll miss George W. Bush

Election night was an emotional time for me. Watching president-elect Barack Obama take the stage at Grant Park in Chicago brought a tear to my eye.

Was it because I was witnessing history on a magnificent scale? No. It must have been Obama's unwavering rhetoric that pulled at my heartstrings? Nope. Maybe it was seeing a sobbing Oprah draped on the shoulders of some stranger that got to me? That wasn't it either.

I struggled to find the reason that I felt so moved. Then, quicker than Obama could spit out another "Yes We Can," I realized the source of my overwhelming emotion. I am going to miss George W. Bush (and so will you). Let me explain.

First of all, it's the liberal bunch of college students that will miss Bush the most. Why? Because the news just became somewhat serious again. And by news I mean our source of news, primarily produced and aired on Comedy Central.

The day after the election, I watched "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," and let me be quite bold in my prediction that the program will last no longer than one more calendar year. After ten minutes of post-election news, Stewart looked into the camera and asked, "How am I supposed to make this stuff funny?"

There are no jokes to make about Obama. The man is eloquent, authoritative, intelligent, and statuesque. And worst of all, every word he speaks can be found in the dictionary. This is ridiculous and unacceptable.

Bush was the master at keeping the press on their toes by throwing in the occasional Bushism, a word or phrase that is either incorrect or completely fabricated. For instance, I will guarantee that Obama never uses the words "strategery" or "misunderestimated" in his four-year presidential term.

Think about it people: would you rather have a president that makes you chuckle or a president that makes you fell stupid because he is so incredibly bright? Thought so.

Another reason that I will miss Bush is on a more personal level. I have been on the waiting list for the annual Bush-Cheney bird hunt since 2001. I have practiced tirelessly and honed my 20-gauge shotgun skills to perfection.

Rumor has it that if one is selected for the prestigious hunt and returns from the woods unscathed, he or she receives the Golden Quail, a medal recognizing the hunter's bravery for walking side-by-side with Bush and Cheney who are both wielding loaded weapons.

In order to dodge the firestorm of birdshot, one must be incredibly elusive, just ask Texas attorney, Harry Whittington. The medal ranks just below the Purple Heart, and has been the apple of my eye for years.

I will miss Bush for his outright rebellious nature. Geneva Convention? To hell with that. We should be able to torture anyone who threatens national security. I can't believe he stopped at waterboarding. That would not work against Simon Cowell, our nation's greatest threat at the moment. We need to tak limbs.

What about the separatio of church and state? Jefferso was an idiot and Bush know it. If we can trust God on th dollar bill, we can trust him i Iraq. The middle-east is ou new frontier, full of riches t be had and villages to pillag and burn at the discretion of crooked administration. It' Manifest Destiny at worl again and Obama is going t blow it for us by pulling out of Iraq, of course.

If we are going to save ou country, we need to allow Bush to run again in 2012 preferably unchallenged. W are going to need him t relieve the people after the next four years that are bound to bring about a stabilized economy, an improved health care system, and an introduction to more alternative energy. That doesn't sound entertaining at all. I already have his campaign slogan, "Off the shelf, Bush in '12."

That's my strategery, who's gonna join me?

--Steve McNulty

Fox News: fair and balanced at an uneven scale

The TV was tuned to Fox News when I walked into the Spartan Room last Tuesday night.

I got there about fifteen minutes early. Staff was still setting up the bar and finalizing the food placements. I could smell the pizza wafting in the air, as various red, white, and blue chair-tied balloons floated gracefully in the air.

I chose a seat at a table in what I believed to be the most strategic location in the room – next to the bartender.

I ordered a drink – Otter Creek's thick-and-dark-as-motor-oil Stovepipe Porter – and looked up to the large, flat screen TV on the wall.

Karl Rove, the now notorious fear-mongering mastermind behind George W. Bush's re-election campaign in 2004, was serving up a slice of "Fair and Balanced" commentary from his blathering food hole, as the studio lights reflected back into the camera off his glossy, balding, skull.

"Someone shut this asshole off," I thought. I'd be damned if I was going to watch that little troll bury Obama's impending victory in his usual Grade A barrage of bullshit.

Thankfully, I wasn't the only person having issues with the choice of station. It was quickly tuned to CNN before the crowds really began packing in.

As I sat there throughout the night, having a few drinks, talking with old friends, and watching Obama's sure-to-be-referenced-in-history-books speech, I couldn't help but wonder what would become of Fox News now that the political tides have turned.

The news network has become the butt-end of many jokes in recent years, as the self-proclaimed "Fair and Balanced" and supposedly bipartisan anchors have pressed the views of the right wing conservative movement for years.

Now, to be fair, MSNBC has been accused of being in the tank for the left side of the political spectrum, too. Call it a conspiracy if you want to, but isn't it odd that Obama's lead in the polls began to increase in unison with Keith Olberman's "Countdown" ratings. Huh.

But over the course of Obama' nearly two-year campaign for president, one thing became astonishingly clear: Fox News is a joke.

All right, maybe that isn't the most earth quaking and groundbreaking news you've ever heard, but it needs to be said again: Fox News is a joke.

Why do people think Obama is a closet Muslim? Fox News. Why do people run around calling Obama a socialist? Fox News. Why do people think Jeremiah Wright and William Ayers pulled the strings behind the scenes of the Obama campaign? Fox News.

Who helped Sarah Palin, the most blatantly sexist and mentally insulting joke of a candidate we're ever likely to see, get a free pass from the tough questions? Sean Hannity and Co. at Fox News.

Sure, it may be naïve to place so much blame on just one news network. Every network slants. But not every network scrapes from the bottom of the barrel as consistently and unapologetically as Fox News does.

Disagree with me all you want. Go ahead and argue your two cents on the message board. I'll hear you out. Who know, I may even change my mind if your points are strong enough. But I own this few inches of print space.

So now I wonder. How exactly will Fox News go forth in a country that is now so dominantly controlled by the political left? What's Bill O'Reily going to do now?

I know a guy who needs his house painted – maybe that's a start.

From the Messageboard

In response to "What happened to the hookahs?"

I'm so glad I left before hookahs were banned!! I wouldn't be able to do it!

--JoAnna Doolan

Tobacco kills people, if you have a healthy body, keep it that way, life is good, without it you don't exist....think about it...no more anything...

--Leigh

In response to "Screwed over for the sake of football"

As a parent who is ultimately paying the $300 fee 8 (or 9 or 10) times, I look forward to seeing the first game on September 6, 2009.

--Steve

As a student (paying my own tuition), I do not look forward to seeing the first football game. Why didn't they put that money towards lowering the tuition for VT residents, or is CSC unaware that Vermont has the highest in-state tuition rates in the country. Or maybe they could have renovated Leavenworth hall. We also pride ourselves as being a "Green School", why weren't solar panels or other energy saving systems installed into the buildings to conserve $$$$$ spent on heating oil. I will be expecting higher tuition fees for the 09-10 school year.

--Student

In response to "Digging up the dead"

Class of 68. I remember the old chapel when it was "attached at the hip" so to speak to the East side of Woodruff, and Leavenworth (the old one previous to burning) was attached to the West side of Woodruff.

The Chapel was the music center of campus and there were practice rooms internally with pianos in them. A great place to go on a sunday afternoon and Jam.

It was a great old building in its pre-restored state..no wonder they were considering tearing her down. But in its present location it is a beautiful and historic part of the campus.

Of course the legends surrounding her are the best part of stimulating the imagination.

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Confession Are You Living In Sin?

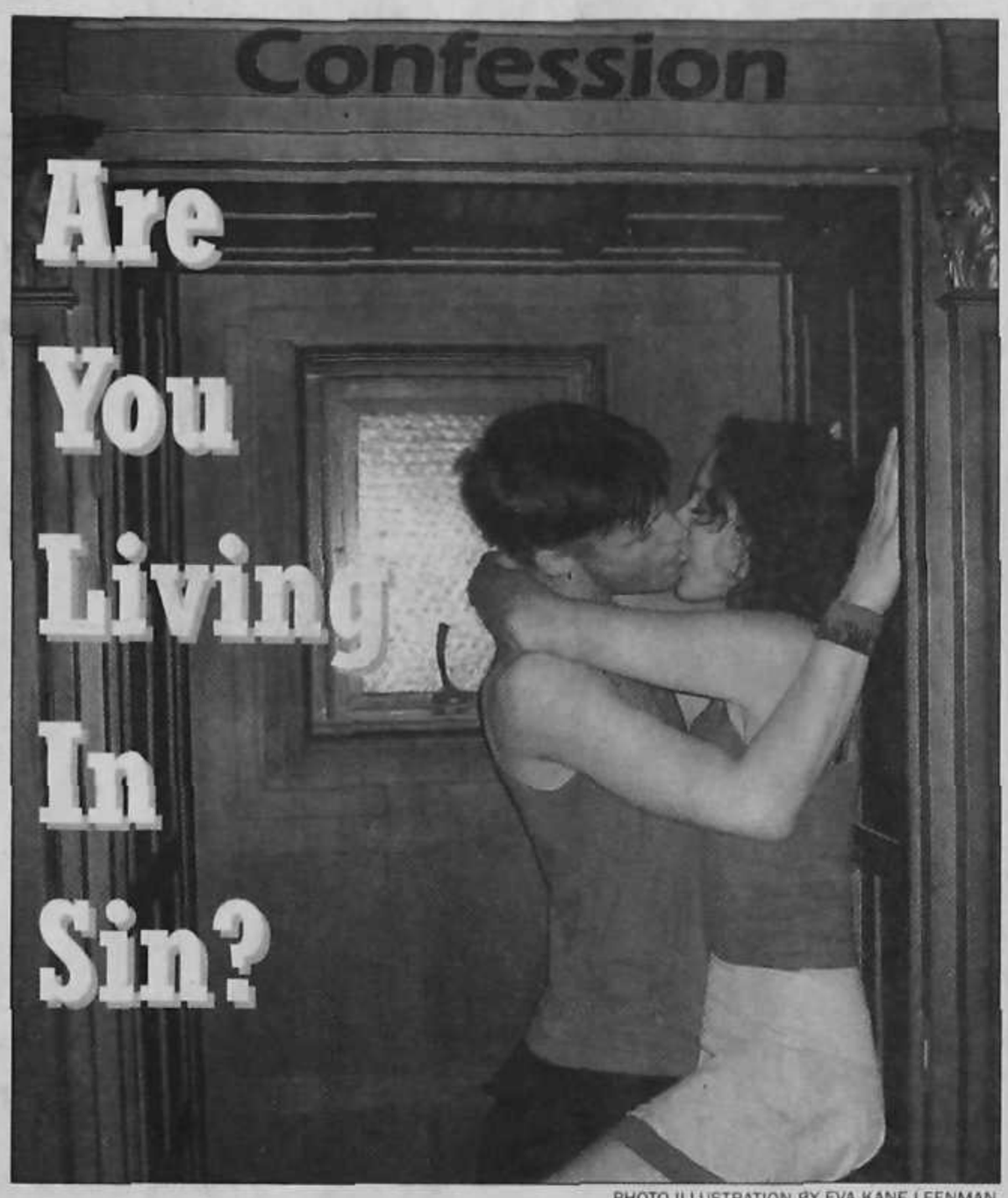

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

By Ashley Manley
Spartan Staff

Some call it living in sin, others call it living in bliss, but these days it has become the norm for couples to live together before tying the knot.

A mere 40 years ago, this wasn't the case. According to the U.S. Census, less than 500,000 unmarried couples were shacking up in 1960. To put this in perspective, the number of couples living together has increased ten-fold from 1960 to 2000. In fact, cohabitation a half a century ago was a crime. But just because cohabitation has lost its outlaw status doesn't mean there aren't consequences to pay in the long run.

Past studies have indicated that cohabitating couples are least likely to marry, have higher divorce rates and are more likely to be unhappy or even become depressed. When 10 Castleton State College students were asked about this sweeping social change, the majority disagreed with the negative associations of cohabitation, while two individuals took a more conservative approach.

"I would rather move in with someone before I marry them," said senior Justin Morris who made sure to point out that he isn't very religious. "People are different when they are home. Their guard is down and all the upfront images and masks they put up aren't there."

However, senior Andrew Brolsma believes in upholding the traditional values of marriage.

"My family is Catholic and they don't believe in living in sin before marriage," he said. "Personally I think living together before marriage will negatively impact the relationship because to me you don't have anything to look forward to after the marriage ceremony. It's going back to a normal, regular, everyday life."

'Psychology Today' reported the findings of Yale University sociologist Neil Bennett that cohabitating women were 80 percent more likely to separate or divorce than were women who had not lived with their spouses before marriage. As well, a study done by the National Council on Family Relations of 309 newlyweds found that those who cohabitated first were less happy once married.

But consider senior Molly Rhodes, who has stories that would make anyone want to test the waters before committing themselves to a vow of till death do us part.

"I know people who have dated, moved in with them and then broke up with them because the person was 'unlivable' due to their thrashing, teeth grinding, and sleep walking at night!" she said.

A Johns Hopkins University study again confirmed that couples who cohabitate have quite different and significantly weaker relationships than married couples. But for Castleton students this may not hold true.

"We have grown closer, and we have learned how to deal with issues by communicating with each other," said senior Samantha Greeno who has been in a serious relationship for almost six years. "I think that living together has positive effects on our relationship."

Senior Chuck Smith also agrees that his four-year relationship has become stronger since moving in with his girlfriend six months ago.

Many of the studies conducted on couples living together before walking down the aisle insist that the individuals are not making a commitment to one another and they aren't officially pronouncing their love and responsibility to each other. This all may be true for some couples but Greeno and her boyfriend are "planning a future together." Their commitment of living together is more than a simple month-to-month rental agreement.

Reflecting on his experience in Italy a few summers ago, Morris says that he learned most people in Europe tend not to get married and live with the same person for "like 50 years." This is living proof that many cohabitating couples can blissfully love and devote themselves to each other for the rest of their lives—even though Morris says that it's mostly because it is very expensive to get married in Europe.

However, there may be some good news for individuals who aren't serially cohabitating. Sociologist Daniel Lichter was quoted in USA Today stating that in very recent studies the research shows women who only cohabitate with their eventual husbands have remarkably lower rates of divorce than those who don't cohabitate at all.

"If your relationship can survive such a close and constant connection, then marriage would be a snap!" said Morris.

Fresh Perspectives

Maria Arnot

October has finally ended certainly faster than expected.

Halloween has concluded, pumpkins have been carved and smashed, costumes are no longer relevant, and November has finally begun.

Last week, I was finally able to witness my first Halloween on a college campus. Despite a lame Halloween night due to an early morning soccer game, it was still entirely pleasing to witness hundreds of college students dressed in variety of clothes, or lack of clothes, wandering around waiting to go to Flubbs.

I did have the opportunity to experience Flubbs the week prior, though. I was rather appalled by the number of people and the amount of sweat flooding the dance floor.

Following suit, Huden provided a Halloween feast, the Physical Education department put on a Halloween event for young trick-or-treaters, I dressed as a ninja-turtle, and all-in-all it was a wonderful Halloween.

Additionally with the commencement of November comes the ultimate conclusion of several fall sports seasons. Castleton will soon be entering an entirely new sports scene including ice hockey, a basketball court in the brand-new gym, and most exciting to me, the beginning of ski and snowboarding season.

Killington has finally opened for the season and many committed students ventured to Killington two weeks ago for the opening day, even despite a tiring Halloween weekend and a limited number of trails.

I have also rendered it vital that I comment on a few other things. As a freshman and a writer, I volunteered to go to the late night show at Fireside last Saturday to watch local musician Duane Carleton perform.

Upon entering the café I noticed that only two students were in attendance watching. As I sat and watched, I became not only astonished, but also concerned to see that hardly any more students entered. And unfortunately, those who did seemed to only be interested in buying food and not the actual performance.

Although the college seems to be doing a poor job advertising these performances (I knew very little of their existence) the college does provide quality entertainment. I would like to suggest to all students that you might want to check it out some weekend.

Also, as I'm sure you are all aware, we have finally discovered who our 44th president is going to be. And regardless of your political preference, I hope that you all had the opportunity to vote. This was an historical election and it was unbelievable to be a part of it, especially because it was many freshman's first time to vote.

On that note, I hope everyone had a wonderful October. November break will be here soon enough. Make your schedules. Get your work done. Don't party. And have a wonderful two weeks.

Could you survive in a co-ed suite?

By Jessica Lawrenson
Spartan Staff

Why doesn't Castleton have co-ed suites? What's the problem with it? Will co-ed suites ever come to Castleton?

These are questions that a small group of friends living in Babcock Hall asked each other one night, as they tried to find a way for them to room closer to each other.

The more this group began to talk about the concept of a co-ed suite, the more they began to hear others from around the building say they thought it was a good idea as well.

The small group of eight began thinking up reasons to prove the idea is a good one.

"Living in a corridor-style (dorm) is basically the same thing as living in a suite," said William Roy.

Another student noted an additional reason.

"Castleton Hall suites would be great for it because there are two sides. Each has one bathroom and two bedrooms so just put the males on one side and females on the other," Britney Valley said.

Amelia Wilson said "if the school believes it will be a problem for freshman to do this, they should only allow it to upperclassman who have a set group of friends that would be willing to do this together and they make up their own suite."

One of the community advisors of Babcock Hall, Kelsey agreed that it seemed like a good idea.

"Gays and lesbians can room together without any say," she said. 'Why can't guys and girls be in a suite together as long as they are not in the same room, just the same suite?"

Christie Wilkerson one of Castleton's area coordinators also gave her opinion on this subject when students brought it to her attention. She likes the idea of the possibility of co-ed suites, but there are several variables that would affect its potential.

A major variable stems from whether or not parents and faculty think it's a good idea. It also brings in more diversity to the school, which families and students might not like.

Other issues may also arise because of it's not seen as a traditional method of student housing, and would be difficult to just change over night.

But despite doubts, students remain hopeful.

"It's good that students are potentially thinking critically about this," Wilkerson said.

This group of students is trying very hard to get the word out to people so they can try to make it happen next year, also hoping those in charge of living arrangements can help them get it done.

Brittany Valley wrote an essay for her English class describing the different views of it and why it would be a good idea. Kenny McIlroy used this subject as a speech in his effective speaking class to get the word out to other students.

At the end of his speech, McIlroy asked who would be okay with having co-ed suites. Almost the entire class raised their hands, showing that a big amount of the college would love to see it happen.

WIUV looking forward to move

By Molly Fraher
Contributing writer

The driver of a gray minivan gently winds the tuning knob until 91.3 FM is displayed on the screen. An old nineties song seeps through the speakers. You know, one of those forgotten classics that you just don't hear on the radio anymore.

"Hey I love this song! What station is this on?" a small but noticeable voice yells from the third row of seats.

"WIUV," the girl in the passenger's seat responds, blankly staring out the window.

The distant voice chimes up again, "What's that?"

"It's Castleton's radio station," the passenger says hesitantly. "You didn't know we had one…?"

It's sad, but true.

For those of you who don't already know, Castleton State College does indeed have its own radio station. And for all of you who are sitting there thinking, "Yea yea, old news," take a second to think about the other people out there who really don't have a clue.

Even those students who say they have heard of the station before claim to not really pay it much attention.

Tyler Mills, a freshman, said that he listens to WIUV when he forgets to bring his I-Pod to the car. Fellow classmate Kelly Gerken also claims to listen to WIUV while in the car, but both students said it isn't something that happens too often.

"A lot of people are either not aware of the station or they just choose not to call in very often," said Myles Mickle, a five-semester veteran DJ at WIUV. "But because of our small-station status we're open to playing any genre of music or discussion show. If more people knew that, more people would listen and participate I think."

It's quite possible that the radio station's location is the reason for the little publicity it receives.

Called the "basement" by some, the bottom floor of Haskell Hall is home to WIUV Castleton.

After tunneling through hallway after hallway, one eventually stumbles upon a giant colorful mural that encompasses an entire wall. Creatively illustrated, it has a small but odd shaped building at its center, labeled WIUV. Through the adjacent light brown door, one can enter into the studio, a magical realm of computer screens and switchboards.

Some new faces to the Castleton community see the placement in the basement as beneficial.

"I think it's pretty cool," said freshman Elizabeth Albright. Albright's friend, Courtney Andre, agrees with her.

"I think it's a good idea, it gives students a chance to walk in and take part."

While some students and staff might be complacent in the basement, things are certainly going to change for the better once the renovations to the campus center are completed.

WIUV will be moving into a "fishbowl" studio with a lot of glass specifically designed for public viewing.

"I do think the extra visibility and the new facilities will make the station a much more exciting and welcoming place for students," said WIUV advisor, Bob Gershon.

Many upperclassmen are relieved to see this change happening to the station as well.

"Don't get me wrong," said junior Marie Amaral, "the station promotes a good atmosphere and I like that it's a station manned by fellow students, but if it's ever going to grow, it's going to need a place where more room and technology are readily available."

Lots of others agree with Amaral, and believe that the station should have its own personal place.

"At the campus center, with updated facilities, more students will be aware of the station and maybe drop by," said a hopeful Mickle.

Sophomore Kacey Chiocoine agrees.

"I feel that the move to the campus center will completely change the station," Chiocoine said. "It would certainly make me want to visit it more."

"Saturday Nights with Mike' host Mike O'Donnell says that "the radio station simply needs a fresh start."

"If you ask me," said O'Donnell, "the basement is a dump. I'm glad that we'll be moving into the campus center."

While O'Donnell can't wait for the change, Mickle takes a moment to reminisce.

"For us and for alumni of the station, there are a lot of fond memories of that location," he said. "But a move to a better location has been a long time coming."

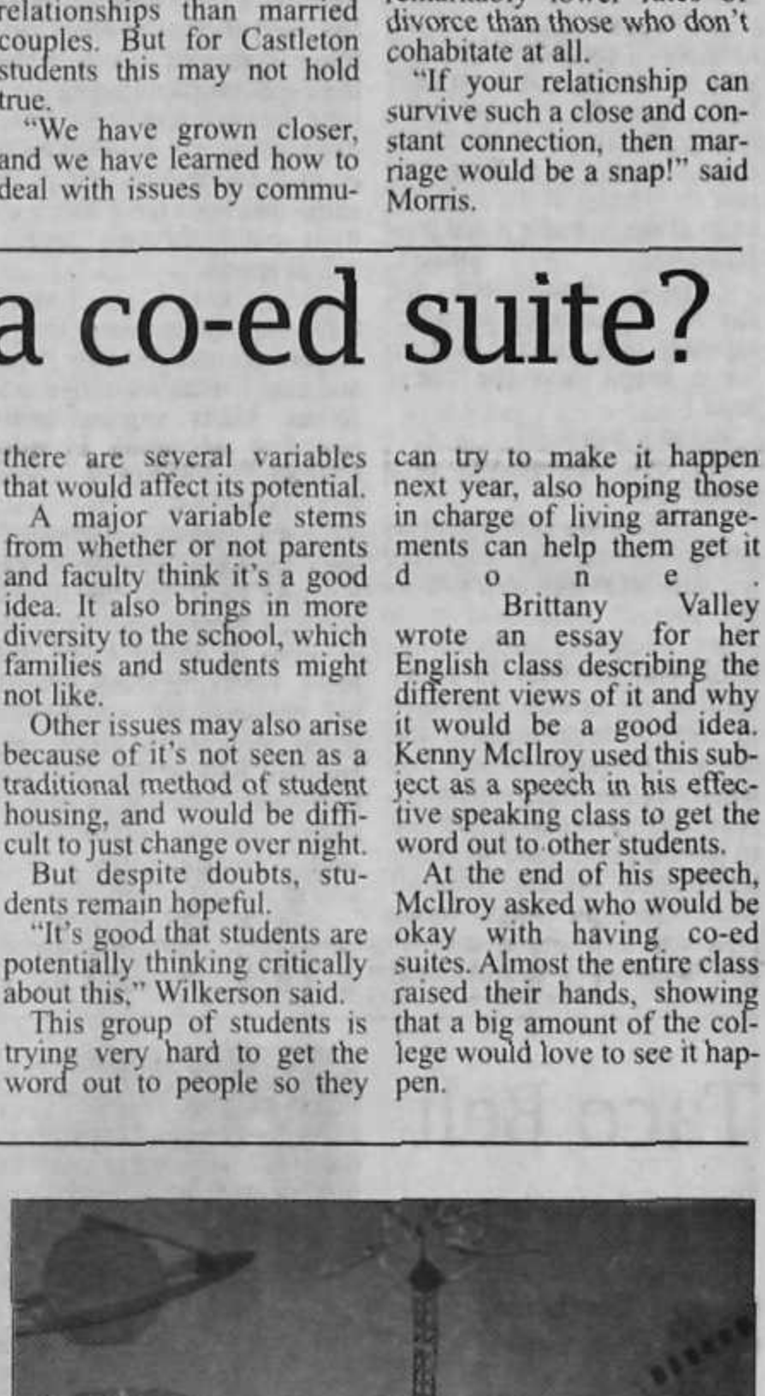

PHOTO BY MOLLY FRAHER

A mural is shown outside of the current WIUV studio.

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A Non Trad's View

Susan Hernandez

Two minutes after eleven on Nov. 4th I watched history being made.

I have spent the last few weeks organizing a rally to support Obama — away from my rabid republican father and his siblings.

I felt invested in this victory and stunned by its reality. We have made history.

My daughter called from Manhattenville College to see if I was crying too. I called my son and my husband called his sister in Venezuela. We reached out to share the victory with those we love, even as we tuned into our televisions to share it with the world.

This night we will remember: Barack Obama had just been elected the first African American President of the United States.

The United States of America declared we as a nation still believed in the "American Dream."

Barack inspired record numbers of citizens to participate in their government and use the most powerful weapon we as a democratic nation possess — our vote. Tonight we have reclaimed our country and demanded change.

The eloquent concession speech from John McCain allowed us to finally see the depth of his character. I wondered if he had spoken like that over the last few months would the outcome have been different. Did he allow others to highjack his campaign? This is the man that we heard about but rarely saw.

I was thrilled to see Palin leave defeated, but somehow I don't believe that we've heard the last from her. I'm afraid she will be like a reoccurring nightmare. Just when you're happily away dreaming she disturbs you.

Maybe that's just what she did, woke us out of our apathy and scared us into action.

I wonder if the good old boys will place the blame on her or man up and accept defeat with the grace of John McCain.

What a night! Barack's acceptance speech will go down in history as one of the greats, right next to King's "I have a Dream."

To have witnessed his triumph and to know that by casting that vote we share his victory. With the race barrier broken can the gender barrier fall next?

Catherine Biden's 90 year-old eyes glowed with pride right through the TV screen straight to our hearts. As a nation we all wished that Barack's grandmother could have lived just a few more days.

The memory of this night I will add to some others I have shared with the world:

John Glen walked on the moon, Nixon resigned, Elvis died, Ronald Reagan was shot, the "wall" came down, John Lennon was assassinated, Chernobyl, and the first invasion of Iraq.

And also a few we shared together; 9/11, invading Afghanistan, the second invasion of Iraq, Katrina, and the Wall Street bailout.

The events of history mark each generation. Often with tragedy so when one brings hope, cherish it. Someday tell your children you helped make history by casting one vote.

Now that you know the strength of your vote, use it to lay claim to your future.

CSC student chasing pro dream

By Chris Adams
Spartan Staff

All seemed normal as two young hockey players in their twenties hung out near their car in the parking lot of an Oaks, Pa. ice rink in between workout sessions. The owner of the car, Joe Lyle, a native of Rutland, Vt. and former Castleton State College hockey player, and a fellow teammate sat in lawn chairs watching a movie on a portable DVD player plugged into the cigarette lighter of Lyle's Volvo.

To the average eye, it was a scene of a couple of hockey players just killing some time during a break from preseason practices for the single-A Valley Forge Freedom of the Mid-Atlantic Professional Hockey League.

However, things were far from normal. This site would become home for Lyle for the next two weeks as he and his teammates awaited money from struggling league and team owners to pay for housing, meals, and transportation. According to Lyle, the beginning was very tough.

"They (the owners) put us up in a grungy hotel for a week, but ran out of money so we were forced to find our own places to stay," he said. "Being a rookie with no connections in the area, I ended up sleeping in my car in the parking lot at the rink. I just threw all of my clothes and stuff into the two front seats and curled up on the back seat."

Just a few months earlier, Lyle had completed his first year of college at Castleton State. Now he was basically living the life of a homeless man, sleeping in parking lots and showering at the rink, all in an effort to make it is a professional athlete.

Lyle's experiences are shared by hundreds of other aspiring athletes all looking for a break into the "next level."

But is it worth it?

For Lyle, the answer is a quick yes.

"You are just trying to get to the next level and you will do whatever it takes to get there," Lyle said in a recent telephone interview. "I think that in order to really stick in pro hockey you have to remain level-headed and not get too high or too low when certain things happen. Also, it was important for me to have a good bond with my teammates because we all went through tough times together."

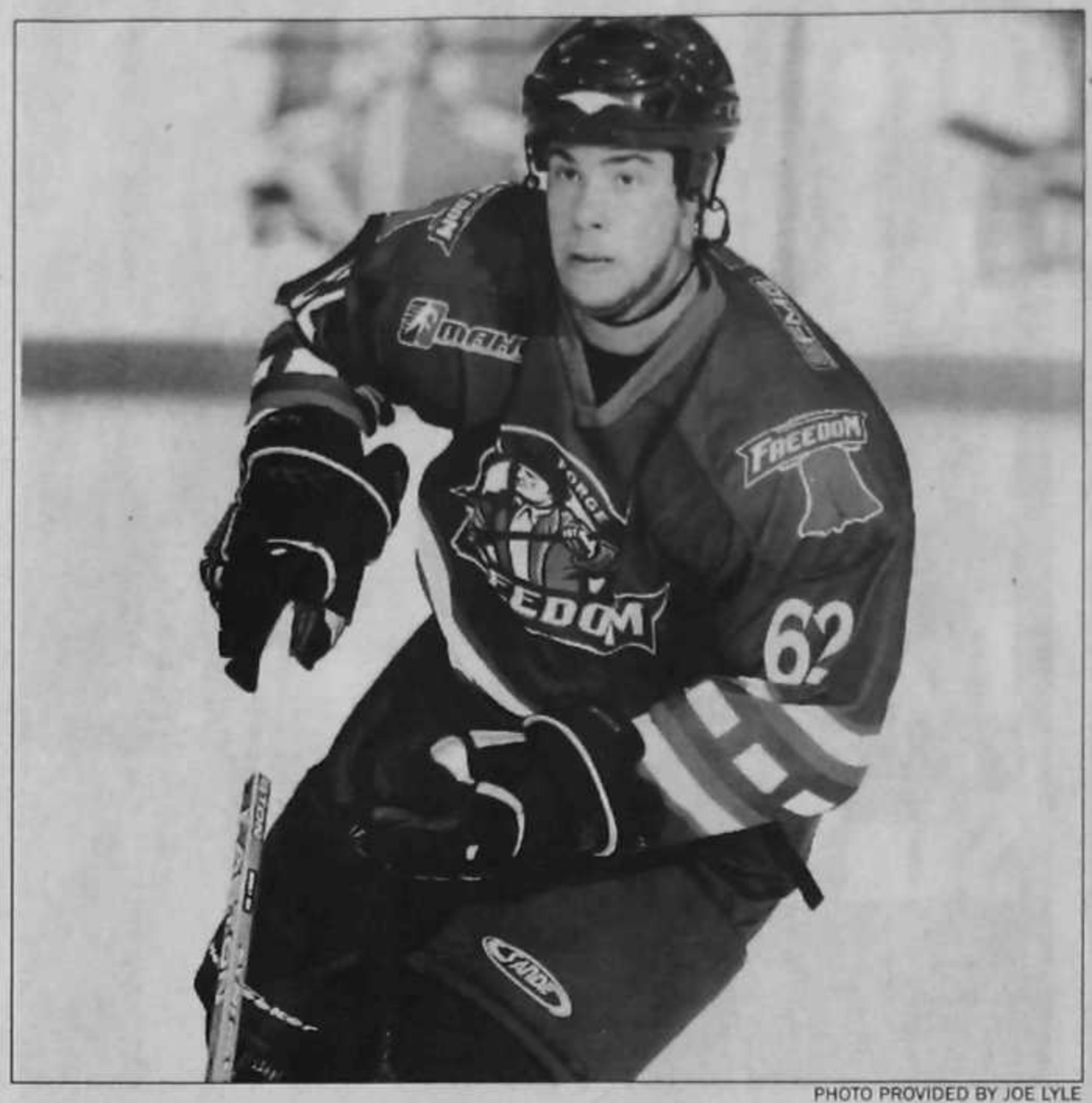


PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOE LYLE

Former Castleton hockey player Joe Lyle skates for the Valley Forge Freedom.

Another professional athlete with Vermont ties and an understanding of Lyle's hardships is West Rutland resident and Alaska native Chad Bentz. Bentz, a professional baseball player and only the second one-handed player to make it to the Major Leagues, has seen the roller coast ride that is semi-pro sports. While the experiences of Bentz are a little bit different from those of Lyle, there is a commonality in the struggles and hardships that both have faced on their paths through professional sports.

For Bentz, a former California State Long Beach student-athlete for two years and later a member of five different MLB organizations including Montreal, Florida, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati, and Colorado, adversity came not through the financial battles that plagued Lyle, but rather the constant mental and emotional drain of career highs and lows. He remembers vividly his greatest day in baseball when Montreal manager and baseball hall of famer Frank Robinson came up to him at spring training in 2004 and said, "congratulations son, you're a big leaguer."

"I just got chills right now telling you about that day," said Bentz during a recent interview

This moment in Bentz' career was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to the game of baseball. However, Bentz pointed out that there were many days that were the complete opposite of this one. When asked what his worst day in baseball was, Bentz replied, "I don't think there was one specific day that was the worst, but the biggest low was each and every time I got sent down to the minors.

"The toughest part was knowing that I belonged at the highest level and that sometimes being sent down wasn't based on performance but rather on things like numbers of roster spots. Those days were the worst."

Although Bentz is different from Lyle in that he has solidified himself as a big-league player while Lyle is just beginning his journey of adversity and triumph, the two share a connection in the battle to become the best player that they can be and to forge a legitimate career in professional sports.

For Bentz, his career has allowed him to raise a family and live a comfortable life, but the future is still very uncertain for the 29-year old veteran pitcher. When the question arose about whether not he has ever had the feeling that he couldn't make it anywhere in sports, Bentz quickly answered, "Yea. Right now. I'm not currently playing, but I am working on going to either the Cardinals or the Mets for next year. If things don't work out then I will have to find something else to do. I might end up coaching or going back to school to get a bachelors degree, which is something that would be a personal achievement and a fulfillment of a life goal for me."

One of Lyle's former teammates at Castleton, Travis Martell, is also beginning his road into professional sports. While he has yet to play a full season in the pros, Martell understands the uncertainty that lies ahead as well as just how fragile the privilege of playing for a living can be. Martell, a 6-foot-5-inch defenseman who started his first pro training camp with the Alaska Aces of the East Coast Hockey League (one of two major feeder leagues to the NHL) in October. But he was recently sent down to Knoxville of the Southern Professional Hockey League and is already well aware of the struggles involved with becoming a professional athlete.

"As a player, you nev want to know that the end near. I mean I want to play long as I can because I lo the game so much. Going o every night and battling wi 20 other guys who all ha the same goal is what it really about. But I also kno the realities of pro hockey a that for me, because I am new player who needs prove himself, opportuniti like my tryout with the Ac don't come along everyday."

As for Lyle, an MAHL A Star selection, his inaugur season in the pro ranks wi the Valley Forge Freedom 2007-2008 turned out to be tough learning experienc highlighted by broken dow team buses, $10 dollar a da meal tickets to local buffet poor living arrangements, r health insurance, injuries, an a $250 a week allowance tha he was forced to live on. In a all too familiar fashion, Ly did get the break he had wai ed for when he was called u to the Richmond Renegade of the Southern Pro Leagu for an end of the season stint just to be told that a concus sion he had suffered jus weeks earlier had caused hir to fail his team physical an meant his dreaded return t Valley Forge.

"That day when I got calle up gave justification for all c the tough times in Valle Forge. Just to get a taste of th next level in Richmond – great facility, veteran player and a sold out arena – that what it's all about," said Ly who is currently on th injured reserve list for th Hudson Valley Bears of th newly formed Eastern Pr League.

According to online docu ments from the Mid-Atlanti Hockey League, 47 player were called up to either th Central Hockey League, th East Coast Hockey League, o the Southern Pro League dur ing the 2007-2008 season with six coming from Lyle' Valley Forge Freedom.

While the life of a semi pro athlete as explained b Lyle, Bentz, and Martell is fa from glamorous, all three keep a tight grip on their love for the game as they ride the roller-coaster of highs and lows in the pro ranks. Fo these three athletes, parallels can surely be made between experiences – struggles and triumphs, but the true com monality between them and what keeps them firing, is the constant possibility of making it to the next level

Taco Bell nation

By Matt Trombetta
Contributing Writer

It's just after midnight in Rutland Town and although the streets are relatively quiet, there's a glow lighting up the area heading out of town on Route 7.

The glow is coming from the 14 sets of headlights, waiting anxiously next to a big bell.

Taco Bell has sounded off, and Castleton State College students and the people of the Rutland region in general show no signs of letting up.

"Thank God we finally have a Taco Bell! Seriously, people have waited a long time for one and it's doing well because I go every week," said Castleton State College student and perennial Taco Bell all-star Nick Wood.

For nearly a decade, students and Rutlanders have been without a Mexican restaurant and the pain of being taco-less was rising. People would go extraordinary links to satisfy their cravings by driving 45 minutes away from home to go to the closest Taco Bell. Whether it was west to Queensbury, N.Y. or south to Bennington, nothing would stop people from piling on their vehicle's mileage to buy a taco.

"I would drive to Bennington just to go to Taco Bell with my friends. It was always a fun road trip," said Castleton State College student Jeremy Jackson.

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Students enjoy the simple pleasures of a Taco Bell run.

Since Taco Bell's grand opening on July 24, people have been buying their different varieties of tortilla, meat, cheese and vegetables much closer to home, only to find that the wait to actually eat one, was like being at the DMV.

"I went the second, or third day they opened and waited about 20 minutes in line after it took 20 minutes to get there. They screwed up my order. I ordered a chalupa and got a gordita and a taco and didn't notice till I was back in Castleton," Jackson said as his face turned red with anger.

And despite now being three months later, the wait has yet to die down at Taco Bell.

Monica Hawks, who works as a public relations representative for Taco Bell at the company's corporate headquarters, was asked if it is normal for brand new locations to do as well as the one in Rutland.

"I hope they're all busy and stay busy," Hawks said with little enthusiasm, and seemingly eager to get off the phone.

While the Taco Bell official was less than interested in discussing this local phenomenon, students have strong opinions on the matter.

"I can't believe that Rutland is hopping up and down because we have a Taco Bell. It must be embarrassing to wait in line 45 minutes just for a taco. I won't go there if my life depended on it," said student Dan Cook.

Cook said he is baffled at its success.

"It's ridiculous for people to spend their time driving from Castleton into Rutland just for a burrito. I guess its okay to have gone when it first opened, but my friends are still going there like its some big secret that Taco Bell is the greatest thing ever," Cook said with a grin on his face.

While some students seemed dead serious when they said Taco Bell is the greatest thing on earth, others said the fad will die out and this Taco Bell will suffer the same fate as the old one on the other end of town and shut down.

But while the new Taco Bell touching the taste buds and souls of hungry students, it is giving City Hall a grande meal sized stomachache.

"I just wish Taco Bell was actually in the middle of Rutland, rather than the outskirts. It is hurting businesses in downtown Rutland and their food isn't even that great. It is still fast food right? I want to say it will die down and bring people to downtown more often, but it doesn't look good," said Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras, as he wolfed down his meatball parmesan sub from downtown's local Italian restaurant, Sabby's Pasta House.

But while Louras isn't a fan, students say they not only like the food, but its low cost as well.

"I enjoy going there because it's cheap. Even though you have to wait a long time to get what you want, it's worth it because there isn't anywhere else to go to get a taco," said freshman Kaitlin Hall.

The Taco Bell phenomenon has certainly grabbed the attention of both satisfied students and those who wish it would 'just stop.' But at least until there is another Mexican restaurant with authentic food, Taco Bell will likely continue to flourish.

"What exactly is a 'grande meal' anyway?" (Mayor) Louras asked during the recent interview, with a grande-sized grin and puzzled look on his face.

Duane Carleton jams at CSC

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DUANE CARLETON

By Maria Arnot
Spartan Staff

His long, curly black hair nearly reached the ground.

He sported a pair of bright ed converse sneakers and arge rounded rimmed 80's glasses, leaving some onlookers unsure of what to make of Vermont musician Duane Carleton on the night of Nov. 1.

But after only a brief listen, Carleton soon would have changed their minds, as he showcased his very talented, moving voice and guitar skills.

Despite the lack of attendance, Carleton's music reverberated satisfactorily throughout Fireside Café and certainly enthused the few who witnessed his performance.

With simply a guitar and a microphone, Carleton provided a wide selection of songs, with lyrics of love, his New England hometown, and even several with political undertones.

Prior to the performance, Carleton shared several interesting facts about his musical career and of those who have inspired and influenced this career.

Carleton, born and raised in Clarendon, has been playing and performing for nearly 37 years. He has produced over 15 albums, adding that he never gets sick of producing music and it has always been something he has wanted to do.

In addition, Carleton has had songs placed in films such as the HBO documentary "Dirty Driving-Thunder Cars of Indiana."

He writes all of his own lyrics and is influenced by several noteworthy bands, including Neil Young, The Beatles, Steve Earl, Wilco, and The Band.

Carleton stated that his favorite part of touring is the actual performance.

He tours primarily in Vermont and has been to several local colleges including Johnson, the University of Vermont, and Vermont Technical College.

Carleton said his most memorable venue was the House of Blues in Cambridge, Mass. He also frequently pays visits to the Clear River Tavern in Killington.

His recently released album "American Boy" compares the contrasts between the current America and the America which once was. Carleton was quite excited for its release, for he claims that it is by far his favorite album.

The album features a variety of popular musicians including Garth Hudson from The Band.

In an excerpt from the inside of this album cover, Carleton states that "I have created an album influenced by the rock of my youth against more serious political songs that deal with the traumas of the working class in of today in order to create a record of light and shadow, of pop and politics, indeed of contrasts."

Entertainment In Review

Be Kind Rewind

ilm Review By Mike Weins
partan Staff

Remember the days f VHS tapes from the rental tore that had the little sticker vith the smiley face and the nessage "Be Kind Rewind"? Vell those days are long gone ut no one told that to Elroy letcher, the owner of a VHS nly rental store/thrift shop in ne movie Be Kind Rewind. erry Gerber is an eccentric unk dealer who gets his head nagnetized and unknowingly rases all of the tapes in the tore and him and his friend Mike have to find a way to eplace all of the blank tapes.

Be Kind Rewind is a comdy about a very bizarre way f solving a problem. Mike ecides that the best way to eplace the blank tapes is to e-shoot all of the movies. At irst Jerry is a bit skeptical ut after Mike is able to conince Jerry that the person vho is renting the video has ever seen the movie and is 'not all there', so she wouldn't notice. So they remake the movie and keep on doing it because their customers actually like the remakes better than the originals.

The movie is quite bizarre, but not weird. It has interesting visuals which is no surprise because Michel Gondry is director and writer and has provided out of the ordinary visuals in his previous films such as, The Science of Sleep and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

He seemed to have taken the visual approach of The Science of Sleep and not necessarily recycled it but used it again in a different context. The Science of Sleep mixes reality with dreams so what you see is a landscape of a lot of cardboard. Cardboard cities, rooms, video cameras, and so much more. Be Kind Rewind uses this approach of using everyday objects for a purpose that they are not supposed to be used in.

One example is when Mike and Jerry are shooting Ghostbusters they are using plastic Christmas garland for the photon rays. Another example is when they use cardboard cutouts for cars and have people holding the cutouts and walking with them.

Be Kind Rewind is a funny and enjoyable movie. For the first half that is. The second half and a little bit of the end of the first half got a little bit too cheesy and too ridiculous. The fact that Jerry and Mike we able to shoot a 20 minute movie in 4 hours and they have full props and costumes, is a bit ridiculous. If they had more time, like two days, to shoot the movie then it would be more believable.

SPOILER ALERT!!!

As the movie goes on the ridiculousness gets more ridiculous. In the second half of the movie Jerry, Mike and most of the community shoot a film about a jazz musician but the whole movie is made up. The scenes that they shoot are completely over the top, scenes that would take a professional crew to make (which it did in real life). When they show the movie in the store, people from the outside can see the movie and it looks like the whole city gathered around and watched the movie. Of course when the property owner comes in to condemn the building and he sees all of these people and he changes his mind.

The final scene would never happen. I highly doubt a property owner would change his mind about condemning a building because most of the city was there to watch a movie. A movie that would probably never been made in real life, the way that it was made.

In the end, the first half of Be Kind Rewind was pretty good. Michel Gondry had some interesting ideas but it got a little bit too cheesy and too over the top. If it was more realistic then I think it would have been better. Also, the story followed the Hollywood formula which also made it a bit dull to watch because you knew how it was going to end and where it was going.

Phantom

Book review by Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

"The main bulk of his [Gaston Leroux's] novel—indeed all screen and stage versions—had dealt only with the last six months of a man who must have been about fifty. I began to feel that the tale we had come to know as The Phantom of the Opera was perhaps only the magnificent tip of the iceberg..." So saying, Susan Kay began to embark on the journey of writing the book Phantom.

Phantom tells the life story of a man called Erik. Erik, whom many know as the Phantom of the Opera, was always a man of mystery. Susan Kay strips away some of that mystery. Kay writes of Erik's childhood—explaining that he gained the mask in infancy, given to him by the mother that couldn't bear to look at him. It goes through Erik's time with the gypsies, Erik's time in Persia, Erik's time as an assassin, Erik's time as an architect. Only then does the story go to 'present' day when Erik meets Christine. Even then though, Kay uses her unique style to re-tell a familiar story.

Questions that may have plagued a reader about the Phantom in the original novel are answered in this book. Although it is true that the original author did not write this back-story, Kay handles the characters with care and love. It is also true that the original Phantom was written in 1910, and Leroux died in 1927, so by the time that Kay read the novel, Leroux was no longer around to answer questions. Which turned out for the better, as Kay may not have written this unforgettable novel otherwise. This novel gains five out of five stars.

Scatterbrained

Terry Badman

Beards Ahoy!

Every October I begin my beard harvest. My face isn't exactly the greatest soil in which to grow a productive layer of grizzly stubble, so it takes me a little longer than a lot of other beard farmers.

And thanks to my Euro trash roots, I also have the unfortunate luck of being born a blonde with terribly pale skin. The combination gives my face a sort of prepubescent peachy fuzziness at certain points in the growing process.

But every year, despite the bone-gnawing urges to itch through my cheekbones with a rusty butter knife, I grow a beard — basking in the bohemian festivity of it all.

There's something about cold weather than simply merits and requires a scruffy but intellectually intense beard wrapped around one's jaw line.

It's not for the chicks, either. I get mixed responses on that one. Some girls say they hate a wooly face of fur, while others find it triggers certain tingles of happiness in odd places.

Either way, growing and maintaining a well-kept beard sort of excites the inner knife-hurling Hemingway in me. It's a right of passage in the spectrum of manhood.

Sure, plenty of sketchy sorts have helped bastardized the image of our beloved beard over the years. Charles Manson, 9/11 terrorists, and James Brolin from "The Amityville Horror" have all helped attach an unattractive lunatic stigma to beards.

But in contrast, there have been far more decent bearers of the beard in history than those who raped it of its dignity.

Cat Stevens, Gandalf, Zeus, Abraham Lincoln, Papa Smurf. All of them wore their beards with pride, making the saintly scruff part of their unique identities.

It is in honor of those greats that professional hockey players grow playoff beards each year, in hopes of snatching Lord Stanley's Cup. Or that ZZ Top and Creedence rock that much harder than the average band.

It is through the power of beards that Jesus Christ Himself is made that much holier than the John Does of society.

Maybe that's an over exaggeration. Not everyone sports the beard to become a better guitar player or a better writer. Maybe the mysticism behind a typical beard rests in personal preferences and superstitions.

I knew a guy who grew a beard during the NFL season, in hopes his beloved Raiders wouldn't get caught cheating yet again.

Another guy started to sprout something that resembled a mess of deranged pubic hair on his chin because he thought he'd score higher on exams.

But for me personally? I'm not sure. The older I get, the more I really appreciate having grown up in the rusticity of New England.

The amount of history that just pours out of every inch of New England soil is uncanny, as there's a real sense of walking over holy ground in even the most mundane of locations.

Maybe for me, my connection to history sprouts from my facial pores, and somehow that hyper-tunes me into the frequency of the Earth.

Or maybe I just hate shaving.

SOUNDING OFF

EVENT COUNTDOWN

4 LEFT

Have something to say about a Soundings event?Please contact a Soundings instructor to share your thoughts.

Quotable Lines:
The Expanding Universe--Robert Kirshner
What would you ask of Robert Kirshner and what did you learn from the presentation?

I learned that the material we know about is only 4% of the Universe and the other 96% is all unknown.
How can we find out what dark energy and dark matter are?

I learned how big the Universe is--I knew it was big, but not THAT big.
If the universe keeps expanding, will it ever stop? Will it run into something?
What is filling in the space the Universe used to fill?

I learned that the Universe isn't just expanding, it is accelerating.
What made the expansion accelerate?
Are there other Universes?
How can we find out more about what is out there?

Coming up next

Nov. 12th-15th, 8:00 pm & 16th, 2:00 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, You Can't Take It With You.

Nov. 20th, 7:30 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, "Off the Beaten Path" by A Jazz Tap Odyssey

Dec. 4th, 7:00 pm, FAC Casella Theatre, The Lascivious Biddies

Obama next president

Continued from page 1 . . .

"thank you God!" also summed up the collective opinion of most of those in attendance.

"This is unreal," said Castleton student Julian R. DeFelice.

Others agreed.

"Obama is the shiznit," said senior Jerome Wortman as he raised his beer to the gods of politics.

Kyle Ellis, whose gaze rarely broke from the television as he sat quiet and collected throughout the evening, spoke softly – and realistically — about his faith in an Obama Administration.

"It's going to be interesting to see how this all plays out," Ellis said. "The question is how are we going to move forward now?"

While students of all faiths and several faculty of all trades seemed to bask in the events of the evening, one demographic seemed notably absent: McCain supporters.

Castleton student Alison Welch offered up what could have potentially been a reason for the lack of republican supporters at the event.

"I think both (political) sides were really worried about the outcome of this election," Welch said. "I was *surprised to see how divided* some of my friends were. I thought they had similar beliefs."

But the potential backlash from some of her republican-supporting friends didn't seem to bother Welch too much on this night.

"*I wish I was home in* California to celebrate this with my democrat friends and family," she said.

Castleton senior Tirzha Osmun sat happily teary-eyed and in disbelief, as if the election results could somehow have been nothing more than *a mean-spirited joke – too* good to be true.

Osmun heavily praised the election of Obama — jumping and clapping and crying at once — adding that it has reaffirmed her faith in America, while also renewing a precious value she lost *several years ago – hope.*

"I've been waiting for this since September 11, 2001," Osmun said, adding that she was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder shortly thereafter. "I couldn't imagine having hope for our world after that."

"But now I do," she said.

Vets describe reality of war

Continued from page 1 . . .

injuries of guys with the same uniform, the same story as me," said Bromley. "After awhile, we just had to be ready for anything."

Bromley also talked about his compassion for the injured Iraqi's, which arrived at the Critical Care Unit in higher numbers.

"The Iraqi guys had no body armor, so a lot more of them wound up dying or with *severe injuries,*" Bromley said. "We had this one guy for three months because they're in their home country, so we can't ship them out anywhere."

"These guys were good people. You know, of course, some of them are bad guys, *and some are ignorant, but not* all of them," he said.

Eugene Hitchcock of Springfield is a CSC sociology major who served the Army National Guard in a medevac unit 100 miles south of Baghdad from 2005-2006.

"We traditionally worked *12-hour shifts, but there real*ly was no guaranteed time off," said Hitchcock. "We were on call 24/7 because of enemy attacks and rollovers that you can't really predict."

Justin Jackson is also a CSC sociology major and hails from Enosburg Falls. Jackson spent the summer of 2008 defending a jet refueling facility in Qatar with the Vermont Air National Guard.

"I feel really lucky because we never felt the same level of danger as the rest of these guys," Jackson said, indicating his fellow veterans on the panel. "I can't say enough good things about these guys."

When Jackson humbly downplayed his involvement, Hitchcock quickly stepped in with a true display of the camaraderie that both the veterans in the movie and on the panel mentioned.

"Every job is important, though. Without each person doing their part, we wouldn't have the system that we do," Hitchcock said.

Heather Slater from Saylorsburg, Pa is a Castleton student double-majoring in *sociology and social work* and plans to work for the FBI one day. Slater served with a Military Police Battalion as a corrections officer at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Slater was also distinguished in a military press release for visiting military and civilian patients every Sunday at a local hospital.

"I worked as a cell guard at a prison in Bagram, observing detainees. One of the hardest things to do was taking care of these people who were pulling the trigger on an IED, and then going to the hospital and seeing wounded soldiers, and I was helping the other guys," said Slater, overcome by tears.

Slater explained that visiting hospital patients and helping provide relief was a way for her to maintain her sanity in a monotonous and oftentimes painful environment.

"I'd go to hospitals and on missions to bring toys, clothing, food, things they've never seen. It was amazing to see how appreciative people were," said Slater.

Matt Howard, the lone panelist who does not attend Castleton, is from Foxboro, Mass. and attends St. Michael's College in the Peace and Justice Program. Howard served with the Marine Corps from 2001-2005 and was stationed in Japan, California, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Howard, who has since joined the Iraq Veterans Against the War, had many frustrations to express based on first-hand experience.

"When I initially joined (the Marines), I swore to protect the United States against *enemies. I took it seriously.* We are an elite group whose actions are dictated by the core values of honor, courage, commitment, and integrity," said Howard.

"But wait, we were straight-up lied to by the government, and I felt incredibly betrayed," he continued. "I honored my end of the bargain and it seemed like my Commander in Chief disregarded that."

Unlike the others, Howard had much difficulty taking away anything positive from his military experience and maintains strongly his opposition to what he believes cannot even be called a war.

"We are occupying, not at war. Violence is not a form of conflict resolution. It's a clear example that the policy has failed," said Howard.

Despite their differences in experience and opinions, the student soldiers all seemed to agree on one thing, which was the value of contact from loved ones back home.

"You wouldn't understand how much a letter means," said Bronwick.

Hitchcock further elaborated on Bronwick's point by contrasting the initial departure with a few months into a mission.

"When you leave, there's this big send-off, and then it's like people forget," said Hitchcock. "The coolness of knowing someone who's *fighting in the war wears off.* There are still soldiers over there doing work; send them an e-mail, send them a picture, send them anything."

After an hour of a captivating panel discussion, Hitchcock wrapped up the discussion with a concrete *and all-encompassing point.*

"We might not agree with why we're over there, but these soldiers do the job and do it well, regardless of the situation," said Hitchcock.

Castleton conservatives a minority

Continued from page 1 . . .

pus is good.

"It's great. There is far too much apathy in our society, and we love it when students get involved in politics or any other kind of extracurricular activity," said Jonathan Spiro a history professor and outspoken supporter of Barrack Obama.

Matt Patry, an academic counselor who also openly supported Obama in the days leading up to the election, agreed.

"I am glad the club got started. Any time the students start a political group, it helps get students into government and getting involved," Patry said, sporting an Obama pin.

In his first semester as a freshman, Kilburn quickly realized his views were in the minority on campus.

"It's hard to be a minority. You want to say your opinion, but it's difficult to voice your opinion," Kilburn said.

Kilburn is not the only student on campus that feels this way.

"I really wasn't aware I was in the minority being a Republican until two things happened: One, a professor started passing out Obama pins and putting up stickers, and two, an e-mail notice *that went out to everyone* that made it sound as if the college was a democratic entity," said Wendy Wentz an elementary education major.

A female member of the club, who did not want her name to be revealed for fear *of retribution in classes for* voicing her opinion, said, "I try not to say anything and I'd rather not deal with being minority because people look at you differently when they find out."

But joining the Conservative Club has helped students like Joe Marcum deal with being a minority on campus.

"We are in a biased liberal education atmosphere from high school to college and I have adapted to it like dealing with a bad headache," said Marcum, with a stern, intense face.

That bad headache that has Marcum in a rage is being controlled by the *Conservative Club because* he said he can voice his opinion freely.

In the Vermont State Colleges Manual of Policy and Procedures under Political Activity, it states "No Vermont State College official, faculty member or employee is authorized in his or her official capacity to make a public statements in support of, or in opposition to a political campaign or candidate for public office."

Despite that mandate, students say some professors, including Spiro, often preach a political side in class – and that troubles them.

In an e-mail response to questions about politics in the classroom, Spiro wrote "I hate being criticized. I think that it comes from not understanding what college is all about, which is to get students to learn to think critically. So as long as a professor tells students from the very beginning what their biases are and reminds them throughout the semester of those biases, and as long as professors always encourage students to disagree with them and lastly as long as professors constantly remind students that their grades are based not on their political opinion, but on how well they use facts to defend those opinions, then I think *it would be a shame if politi*cal issues were not discussed in class."

He continued saying that "unfortunately, some students, usually the ones with low grades and or the ones who come from homes where there were never any *political discussion* around the dinner table, do not understand the importance and the joy of engaging in political debate and critical thinking. They do not fully grasp the concept that come to college to read difficult as opposed to easy books, to make frien with unfamiliar as oppos to familiar people, and to exposed to challengi *rather than comfortab* ideas," he wrote.

Standing up for facul and professors on camp Patry said he believes it unfair to call faculty me bers bias.

"I would be shocked professors and facul *pushed their views on stu* down student's throats. agree if faculty and profe sors are, they should nev push a political view class," he said.

Wentz said she joined t Conservative Club becau it was a relief for her kno ing someone else felt t same way. The woman w did not want her identi revealed agreed saying "I a chance to show o school's community that n all conservatives are Bu loving and God fanatics."

"I joined the club becau I was afraid of bein attacked by my peers in classroom setting if I voi my opinion," said Er Kapitan, a communicatio major. "It's also a goo opportunity to meet peop with the same view."

The club is growing ar has 20 members current enrolled.

"The Conservative Clu will work alongside with t Rutland field office f Republicans to get the wor out around Castleton and t Rutland area," said Kilbu *the vice president. "If stu*dents would like to join th club, just show up to a mee ing or contact me and I wi put you on the list."

For Marcum, the club formation was long an overdue.

"It's a way to stick th *middle finger at Castleton* liberal bias and say NO, refuse to conform," he said

Itching to hit the snowy Vermont slopes

Continued from page 1 . . .

When asked if Sugarbush had opened yet, one resident replied, "No man, that's why we're here!"

Another felt it necessary to call one of his buddies to let him know about the beautiful day he'd surely regret missing.

After a great start to the season, snow lovers' expectations are hopeful.

"It's gonna be sweet! I'm excited because I set up my schedule for senior year so that I can go to the mountain during the day and return for my classes at night," said Nicole Adams, a Castleton senior.

Sarah Parker, both a Castleton student and Killington employee made it up to the mountain for opening day.

"It was pretty sweet! It got icy towards the end, but it was a good experience," Parker said.

Through the eyes of a Killington employee, Parker also noted that the season would be a step in the right direction.

"The mountain is way more open to the snowboarding population. The divide between skiers and snowboarders is diminishing. As *someone who does both, it's* really cool to see," she said.

Although the mountain offers a desireable escape from the chaos of student life for some, others engage in alternative winter sports. Adrenaline-nuts find solace in the slippery slopes sur*rounding campus.*

Jacob McLaughlin asked jokingly, "I sled, does that count for anything?"

On a more serious note, points out that althou many love the snow, it pos problems for some.

"I'm a commuter, so sno *means rough travel in n* mind," explain McLaughlin.

The approaching wint season is the highlight conversation as of la Anticipation is heightened skiers and riders alike pr pare themselves for winte *upcoming adventures.*

When playfully prodd for her visions of the'08-' season, Parker respond with a chuckle.

"A lot of time crunching I can spend more time havi fun! I plan to make mem ries, and potential *injuries!*" she said.

Inside Sports

Basketball teams confident heading into 08-09 season

By Annie Hartman
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College men's and women's basketball teams hit the road Nov. 15, kicking off the 2008 basketball season.

The lady Spartans begin *their season at the College of* Saint Joseph in Rutland. Last year, Castleton beat the Fighting Saints, who, according to Castleton head coach Tim Barrett, graduated several players last year. But the Spartans are not looking past CSJ.

"*It's the beginning of the* season," said Coach Barrett. "You never know what other programs brought in for new players."

The Spartans have two new players this year: Christine Jaques, a freshman from Burlington High School, who *Barrett hopes will step into a* point guard role; and Tiffany LaFond, a transfer from Southern Maine. But Castleton, who was seeded first in the North Atlantic Conference, last year with a 19-8 record, did not graduate a single player. The lineup is *loaded with seven seniors,* including last year's 1st team All-Conference player, Jessica Banks.

The lady Spartans were upset in the semi-finals last year by #4 seeded; Becker College, and this winter the team is looking for revenge. *The outlook is good,* and Barrett is optimistic about where the season is headed already

"Players are working hard and worked hard in the off season to get better," said Barrett.

Barrett believes that this year will be a tough one for the lady Spartans, whose schedule includes many teams that made a run in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament last year. Barrett said that the team's toughest competition will probably be Maine Maritime, Husson, and University of Maine Farmington.

"There will be a lot of great basketball games," said Barrett.

The team will take one game at a time, but will keep its eye on the prize: another chance at a NAG championship.

The Castleton men travel to Springfield College in Massachusetts to take part in the Tip-Off Tournament, which also will include Elms College and Regis College. But unlike the lady Spartans, the men's team finds itself in a bit of a transition year.

"We lost a lot of experience," said head coach Ted Shipley, who lost five players and 70 of the team's average 83 points. Last year the Spartans finished the season 15-11 and made the conference playoffs. Only three upper classmen return from last year's team to lead the Spartans, including lone senior Kevin Cayea. Nine new players join the team, including six freshmen. But Shipley has faith in his team.

"It will take time to get to where I think they can be," said Shipley.

Castleton scrimmaged Southern Vermont College during the preseason, and, according to Shipley, the team "showed their youth." But Shipley believes that by midseason, the team will be a competitive one.

"The first 10 to 12 game could be rough," he said, "but we'll get to the point where we play good college basketball.

Castleton and Springfield have never met up before. The Pride, a team that went 9-16 last season, is also a fairly young team, led by only six upper classmen. Despite Springfield's previous record, the Spartans are not overlooking their opening game, but they will not let their youth be a detriment to them either. The game plan:

"Scoring is going to have to be balanced and come from everyone," said Shipley.

Both the men and women begin their home season Nov. 25 against Plymouth State. The lady Spartans play at 5:30, the men follow at 7:30.

Hitting the Ice!

Check out CastletonSpartan.com for an exclusive preview of the upcoming mens hockey season

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question

How do you feel about the tion of 08' results?

HANNAH TOWSLEY

'm glad Obama won. I don't ow much about politics.

Peter Ginter

'm f--ckin' happy.

Shannon Berkeley

I'm happy about it because I dn't want McCain..

READ THE SPARTAN ONLINE WWW . CASTLETON SPARTAN . COM

Greetings from jolly ol' London!

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CASTLETON STUDENTS IN LONDON

Castleton students pose for a photo during their semester abroad in London.

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Student jams at Pub Night

PHOTO BY WYATT ALOISIO

Student joker shows his halloween spirit at a campus sponsored trick or treating event..

PHOTO BY TERRY BADMAN

Bagpiper pipes his way through the Castleton quad.

Marching on

By Alison Clark
Spartan Staff

A uniformed marching band has been a dream of Casteton State College President David Wolk since he came to Castleton in 2001.

But before the band could become a reality, Wolk knew that the school would need many improvements to the arts and athletics programs.

And when these improvements were achieved, Wolk and Music Department Chair Glenn Giles and Hank Vaughan, the school's new assistant director of bands, to bring the marching band to fruition.

Vaughan has come to Castleton to create an environment with a uniformed marching band. He wants the Spartan marching band to march in parades and to support the athletic teams at Castleton State College sporting events.

He believes athletes will benefit from knowing the band is behind them.

"Maybe it means a point or two, but those points can be the ones that win it," Vaughan said.

Kasandra Howe, a freshman mathematics major and member of the band, is optimistic about the band's role as a supporter.

"It will add spirit to campus," Howe said.

The band will work to create that spirit at football games next fall.

"College football is an environment. It's not just a game, it's a collegiate experience," Vaughan said.

Vaughan has worked closely with the athletic department and said the program is a team effort between departments. Head football coach Rich Alerico said he is excited about the prospects of a marching band at Castleton.

"Nothing adds to the pageantry of college football like the sights and sounds of a uniformed marching band," Alercio said.

Steve Jurnak, an athletic training major and member of the band, agrees.

"To have a marching band at a football game completes it," Jurnak said.

The band won't be limited to football, Vaughan said. They will play at other select games as well and there will be a spirit band in addition to the marching band that will play at men's and women's hockey and basketball this winter.

Castleton has 2,000 students and is a Division III school, Vaughan said. But Vaughan said he wants a Division I environment. He is aiming for 60 to 70 students in the marching band. This year he hopes to recruit 20 to 30 freshmen.

"There are no auditions, everyone is welcome," Vaughan said. "Even if they haven't picked up their horn in years."

Next semester, The Spartan Spirit Band and Spartan Drumline will be offered as classes. Any interested students should contact Vaughan.

Nice to meet:

Bryon Billado

By Wendy Young

Bryon Billado works in the IT section at Castleton. He has been here for a little over ten years.

What is it, exactly that you do?
I configure all the college owned computers. My official title is 'Assistant Local Area Network Administrator'

Have you always wanted to work with computers?
Since the computers came out in the eighties. They were a hobby that turned into a job.

What's your favorite kind of computer?
At the moment, Macintosh. If you ask me my opinion in a year, I may tell you a different kind of computer.

What's the biggest computer catastrophe that's happened since you got here?
Two or three years ago, there were several viruses that brought the whole campus down.

Is that the kind of problem you deal with?
Generally, I deal with software that isn't working.

Do you like working here?
Very much so.

Any last comments?
If there's a computer broken, let us know!

SA Election Results!

358 students voted in elections
(18% of eligible voters)
Results:

Executive Vice President
Justin Garritt
Vice President of Academics
Suphada Rom
Treasurer -
Becca Merrow
Secretary -
Jazmin Averbuck
Delegates:
Will Mathis
Stacia Bucknell
President, Class of 2009
Edward MacEnulty
Vice President, Class of 2009
Samantha Greeno
Secretary, Class of 2009
Nicole Carey

Referendum on new SGA constitution passed by a vote of 276 to 48.

Field Hockey team wins first NAC title

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

PHOTO BY JOHN SHRAMEK

Midfielder Sarah Flore(25) celebrates with teammate after a 4-3 overtime win against St. Josephs College

Four girls stood in a circle, huddled up with their sticks together. The circle broke, and overtime began. As soon as it began the tension that had lingered through the crowd at the end of regulation, found its way back to the hopping fans. Kayla Blank broke down field, pushing the ball ahead of her. Lifting the ball top right corner, getting rejected by the post. The ball found its way back to Blank through all of the traffic, and this time was sent straight into the net.

The Castleton field hockey team beat St. Joseph's College 4-3 in overtime, to win the Norther Atlantic Conference finals. The Spartans lost to the Monks in its previous matchup, losing 4-2 after having a 2-0 halftime lead. It was the only conference loss Castleton suffered, adding a little redemption to the victory.

"It's always nerve wracking to feel like a lot of pressure's on you," goalie Trisha Clark said about the exciting final minutes.

The first half was accompanied with rain, seeming to pick up as the momentum of play did. Blank scored her first goal of the game on a pass from Carolyn Griggs. St. Joseph's pushed back applying more pressure on goaltender, Clark. The Monks got a penalty shot, which was quickly grabbed away by Clark.

Griggs struck the ball five hole adding to the Spartans lead. St. Joseph's retaliated with a goal of its own. Clark was bested as the offender dangled by the post, waiting to strike the net. Flashes of the last meeting between these two teams occurred when the Spartans went into halftime with a 2-1 lead. Griggs hit the net a second time, Molly Fraher and Blank getting credited for the assist. When time started to wind down, and the pressure really came, the Monks narrowed the lead to one goal, then added the tying goal late in the game. Just as the record books will show, Blank sent St. Joseph's packing with her quick overtime goal.

"It was a team thing, we knew we had to finish it," Blank said. "We had to step it up, keep pushing, and we knew we wanted to win."

The horn sounded and the white jerseys rushed the field, celebrating a well earned victory. The emotion from the game was everywhere, fans were screaming for the Spartans. Just before the photo op, Head coach Tammy Landon was showered with the orange Gatorade cooler full of water.

"I'm estatic, nervous, I want to cry," a flustered Trish Watson said, after taking photos with the teams new championship plaque. "I'm still in shock."

Blank and Griggs led the Spartans with two goals and an assist, Fraher also tallied an assist. Clark, Blank, Griggs, Brooke Towslee, and Meghan Konowich represented the Spartans for all tournament team. Griggs was named the Most Valuable Player for the NAC. The conference title marks the Spartans first appearance in the National Collegiate Athletic Association division three tournament.

"We're going to have fun," said Landon, adding. "The seniors don't want the season to end."

Men repeat as NAC champs

PHOTO BY JEFF WELD

Mens soccer team poses after defeating Husson for the NAC title

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The players of the Spartan men's soccer team can call themselves North Atlantic Conference champions for the second straight year. The second-seeded Spartans upset the first-seeded Husson University Eagles in penalty kicks after the 1-1 game could not be decided in two ten-minute overtimes on Nov. 8, in Bangor, Maine.

Just over three minutes into the second half, Greg Klopfer put the Spartans on the board with a header off of a cross from T. J. Mazza.

"I was just thinking the rest of the half was please don't let them score," said Klopfer. "I just want to get this half over with and have a fun time celebrating on the bus home."

Unfortunately for Klopfer, after the Spartan's score, the Eagles put consistent pressure on the Spartans. With 10 minutes left to play in regulation, Eagle Josh Labonte tied the game as he put one past Spartan keeper Mike Anthony, eventually sending the game into overtime.

"There was without a doubt a sense of urgency from them," said Anthony. "They crashed the net hard, served up a lot of balls, and picked up the physical play too. Mentally, I was just trying to stay focused on our defense, make sure we kept our positioning and that we were keeping our marks."

After two overtimes without a goal, the game came down to penalty kicks. Ryan Hahn, Corey Robbins, Jason Potter, Klopfer, and Mazza were selected to propel the Spartans into the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Tournament.

"You have to have faith in your teammates in that situation, and I think we all had that, I know I did," said Anthony.

Anthony, NAC Tournament Most Valuable Player, stopped Husson's second shot off of the foot of Nathan Carter.

"After I stopped the one PK I knew we had grabbed a clear advantage. It's huge because the pressure is all on them now and their keeper; not only do they have to answer our shooters, now their keeper must come up with a stop," said Anthony." He added, "However, the game was by no means in the bag."

In fact, the game turned out to be in the bag. All five Spartan shooters made their shots, giving the Spartans the outcome they had been hoping for since last season ended.

The Spartans have now won four NAC Tournaments in the past six years. Three of those have been under head coach John Werner.

The Spartans did not know their opponent in the NCAA Division III Tournament at the time of this article.

Bad bounce knocks out lady Spartans

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

With one unfortunate bounce of a ball, the lady Spartan soccer season ended as the team was defeated 1-0 in the North Atlantic Conference semi-final game by the University of Maine Farmington on Saturday, Nov. 1, in Castleton.

The game was a tough battle with both teams' defenses dashing any hopes of scoring during regulation.

The Spartans again had a shot at victory with 1:48 left in overtime as a Spartan pass squeaked by the Beaver defense and forward Maria Arnot tracked it down. Just before Arnot reached the ball, though, Beaver keeper McknellBarnes left the net and made a feet-first slide at the ball. Arnot, determined to knock the ball away, collided with Barnes. Barnes' grip on the ball was too tight and Arnot tumbled over the keeper.

The Beavers made a final attempt at victory as the remaining minute slowly ticked away, but the Spartans turned them away.

As the Spartans brought the ball to the midfield with less than a minute to play, though, Beaver forward Amber Murphy forced a turnover. She carried the ball for a moment and then sent a seemingly harmless pass to the center of the goal box. Spartan keeper Nakita Baldic lined the ball up for the save, but at the last minute the ball took an awkward bounce and rose up and over Baldic's head. As she fell backwards she tried to swat the ball away, but it was too late.

The ball came to rest in the right corner of the goal. Fans and players stood silent and motionless in disbelief of the anticlimactic ending to a hard fought game.

"Sometimes when you play games like this it doesn't work out in your favor, and that game we just didn't have things go our way," said Carisa Chadburn, a captain.

The loss for the Spartans leaves them with an overall record of 11-8 and a NAC record of 6-1. Now comes the long wait and the anticipation of next season.

"I am expecting big things out of our team next year," said Chadburn. "We understand what it feels like to lose such a heartbreaking game, and I know that we do not want it to happen again."

Klein shines in NAC

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Castleton State College women's cross country team took second place in the North Atlantic Conference Championship race, while the Spartan men took fourth place on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The Lady Spartan team was again the runner-up to the University of Maine-Farmington team, which has won four NAC titles in the last five years.

For the women, who scored 58 points, Maggie Klein led the way with a time of 20:12. She placed second overall in the standings, only behind Lindsay Calkins of Lyndon State College.

Lindsay Rines and Sage Small rounded out the top three for the Spartans, finishing in 10th and 12th places respectively.

"We all raced really well and have been putting a lot of time into our workouts and getting ready for the end of the season," said Klein. "Maine-Farmington has a really great team; they have been lucky getting some good recruits and have been training really hard too." In the men's race, Lyndon State College took top honors this season.

Jeffery Paul finished first for the Spartans and 11th overall in the men's race with a time of 30:30.

Nicholas Grasso and Peter Smith took second and third honors for the Spartan men as they finished 14th and 16th respectively in the individual times.

The Spartans will now wait anxiously for next season to come.

"The season next year should be good, we're getting some transfer runners and they should really help our team out," said Klein.

Ruggers lose in semis

By Chad Cioffi
Spartan Staff

The feeling of deja vu crept over the sidelines of the Spartan rugby team. Another semi-final game, another disappointing loss. Castleton had been firing on all cylinders going into the matchup against Stone Hill College. The Spartans were coming off a dominant victory in the quarterfinal round and were looking to keep their undefeated record in tact.

Castleton jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first half of the game but would find no more success on the scoreboard. A quick rebuttal by Stone Hill, and the score was tied at the start of halftime. The second half began to expire and the Spartans fell victim to another score, now falling to a 6-3 deficit. But as the last five minutes ticked away, Castleton relived the same anguishing loss it did a year before.

"We were the two highest scoring offenses in the league, but it was all defense all day," captain Kevin Chui said. "It was a long, long, tiring day."

Spikey Mike Baldino agreed.

"It was a complete battle. We were always fighting," said Baldino. "They would drive down the field; we would stop them. We would march back down on them, and they'd stop us. Everyone put it on the line."

The scrums moved end to end throughout the game, but with an injured Alan Page, Castleton had to change its tactics. With Page's injured ankle, the Spartans were now losing scrums, so they could wheel around and steal the ball on the other side.

"It changed our scrum from being strong to a little weaker. We had a tactic called 'Crabbing' to get the ball back," said Page about the strategic scrum maneuvering.

The loss was the Spartans' second consecutive semi-final loss. Although Castleton's New England Rugby Football Union post-season hopes are over, the rugby team still has a spring season. While the spring semester doesn't have a postseason, the team will still play events like the Beast of the East tournament and Scorpion Bowl.

"We still play tournaments to keep us in shape, to bring the team together so we're doing something year round," Page said. "It's just as meaningful as the fall season. We have tournaments, and we play division one, and division two schools that are ranked pretty decent."

Sports Column

Matt Linden

This week marks the tu
off to a new and exciting se
son, one that concludes wi
a 65-team tournament
March that annually pr
duces dramatic finishes a
shocking upsets. College ba
ketball is back, and it's tim
to take a look at what th
2008-09 edition has in sto
for us.

Defending national cham
pions, Kansas, is losing six
its top eight scorers from la
year's team. It could be tou
for the new-look Jayhawks
retain supremacy in the Bi
12 conference against poten
tial powerhouses Oklahom
and Texas, but the return
speedy junior point guar
Sherron Collins will provid
the team with leadership an
a game-changer on both end
of the court. Coach Bill Se
should have no problem tak
ing Kansas to its 20th con
secutive NCAA tournament

The overwhelming favori
this season has to be Nort
Carolina, with the return
every starter including reign
ing player of the year Tyle
Hansbrough. This team ha
depth and will be very tough
to beat with the big boy dom
inating in the post, but th
real question with the Ta
Heels is can they withstan
the pressure come tourne
time. While North Carolin
will probably sit at the top o
the polls throughout the sea
son, I expect another heart
breaking March in Chape
Hill and Hansbrough's illus
trious college career to en
without a national title.

In each of the last tw
years, the Duke Blue Devil
have suffered an early exi
from the tournament due t
the lack of a physical bi
man. Coach K knows he wil
get consistent production ou
of guard Gerald Henderso
and sophomore forward Kyl
Singler, but Duke is still to
soft inside without a true cen
ter.

After a tournament for th
ages in which he averaged
over 30 points per game an
carried his school to the Elit
Eight, Stephen Curry decide
to turn down the NBA and
return to Davidson for hi
junior year. His decision t
stay in school has trans
formed Davidson from
Cinderella team to a con
tender, and gives him
chance to challeng
Hansbrough for Player of th
Year.

Speaking of Cinderella
Gonzaga had worn the glas
slipper for a long time but
now competing and recruit
ing like a major-conference
power. This year's team
might be Coach Mark Few's
best shot at a Final Four, wit
rising star Austin Daye being
a matchup problem for an
school in the country and
Jeremy Pargo creating
offense for a squad with mul
tiple double-figure scorers.

This season's freshmen
class is not as heralded as
has been the last two years
with stars like Kevin Durant
and Michael Beasley, bu
there are plenty of impact
newcomers who can help
take their teams far into
March. The state of
California sports two of the
premier freshmen in the
country in UCLA's Jrue
Holiday and USC's Demar
DeRozan. Holiday should
give the Bruins immediate
production and teams up with
point guard Darren Collison
to form a dynamic guard duo
DeRozan, a 6'6 guard/for
ward, is more of a scorer and
will pick up from where O
Mayo left off at USC.

The Big East is by far the
most competitive conference
and is loaded with strong
teams from top to bottom.
Connecticut is going to be
really strong with the offen
sive improvement of 7-foote
Hasheem Thabeet. Pittsburgh
boasts the best frontcourt in
the country with DeJuan
Blair and Sam Young.
Louisville might be one of
the more athletic teams with
Terrance Williams and Earl
Clark and Notre Dame's
Luke Harangody is a power
house in the post.

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

INDEX

Editorial.....Page 2
Talk less, communicate more

News.....Page 3-4
Loving living in sin

A&E.....Page 5
Behind the scenes of FAC productions

Front & Back.....Page 6
Students battle the bulge.

On Campus.....Page 7
Breakin' in the new gym.

Sports.....Page 8
Spartans take two.

Remembering Linda Wiggin

By Laura Olson
Spartan Staff

Every professor is entitled to the occasional absence or two per semester, but when part-time instructor Linda Wiggin did not attend four class meetings in a row, her students began to worry that something more serious may have happened.

"At first I didn't think anything was wrong because we received an e-mail from Linda on Monday (Nov. 10) saying that she was ill," said Bianka Nolan, a freshman in Wiggin's Effective Speaking class.

The e-mail from Wiggin, aside from informing the class that she was "very ill" and would not be attending class, urged the students to practice, commended them for "doing great," and informed them that she would see them Wednesday.

But when the students attended class on Wednesday, once again, Linda was not there, this time with no e-mail preceding her absence. Friday and Monday's scheduled classes followed suit.

"After the recurrence we all started talking," said Nolan, "We knew something must have been wrong. We would all come for the first 10 minutes of class, and some of the things that were said was maybe she was really sick, heart attack, hospital-

Continued on page 6 . . .

Report: tuition rising

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Vermont spends 37 percent more on prisons than on higher education.

The cost of in-state tuition is the highest in the nation, as the state funds its colleges at lower levels than nearly every other state

The College Board lists Vermont as the most expensive institutions in the nation for residents, with an 8 percent increase in 2008.

"There's a relationship between what the state gives us for funding and what we have to do when we set tuition," Castleton Academic Dean Joe Mark said. "Because we have so little support in terms of state appropriations, yes our tuition is high,"

"It's criminal," said CSC non-trad Michelle Laflame, who chose a Vermont institution because she wanted her money to stay in Vermont. She is angry that "the University of Vermont is funded by the state at a higher level than our own state colleges."

The VSC appropriations total roughly $25.2 million for more than 10,000 students in the Vermont State College system.

In contrast, UVM received $42.2 million in funds, but only enroll half the number of in-state students according at a Joint Fiscal Office September

Continued on page 6 . . .

ROBERT BURGE/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Michael O'Donnel speaks his mind on his weekly radio show on WIUV.

The man behind the voice

Popular student pursues goals despite disability

By Chadwick Cloffi
Spartan Staff

It was "The United States Presidents," a heavier read for most second graders.

At the end of reading time, the teacher isn't able to pry the book from the child's hands and the obsessed reader refused to put the book away.

That altercation led to a life-changing discovery.

That was how Michael O'Donnell, a Castleton State College junior, was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome, a type of autism. O'Donnell says his AS is often mistaken for Turrets Syndrome or Attention Deficit Disorder.

The beginning of grade school went pretty normal, but O'Donnell said he started to feel out of place around sixth grade. He didn't feel like he had suddenly become an outcast, but it made him feel like he was different from his peers.

His mother, Ann O'Donnell, talked about his upbringing and the signs that things were a little different with Michael.

"When he was 2 he wasn't talking. He started to read at 4, he would read the license plates in the parking lot," she said.

> "There will be obstacles, but I want to overcome them."
>
> **Mike O'Donnell**

Her son was also reading countries on a globe in a preschool program. She said Mike learns best when he is on a strict schedule.

"He can't just wing it," she said.

Now behind brown rimmed glasses and underneath a blue and gold Michigan State hat, Mike still reads up on the Presidents of United States.

A lot of time has passed since he was diagnosed. Now Mike embraces the situation and looks ahead to what he plans on doing in life.

"When I get involved in

Continued on page 6 . . .

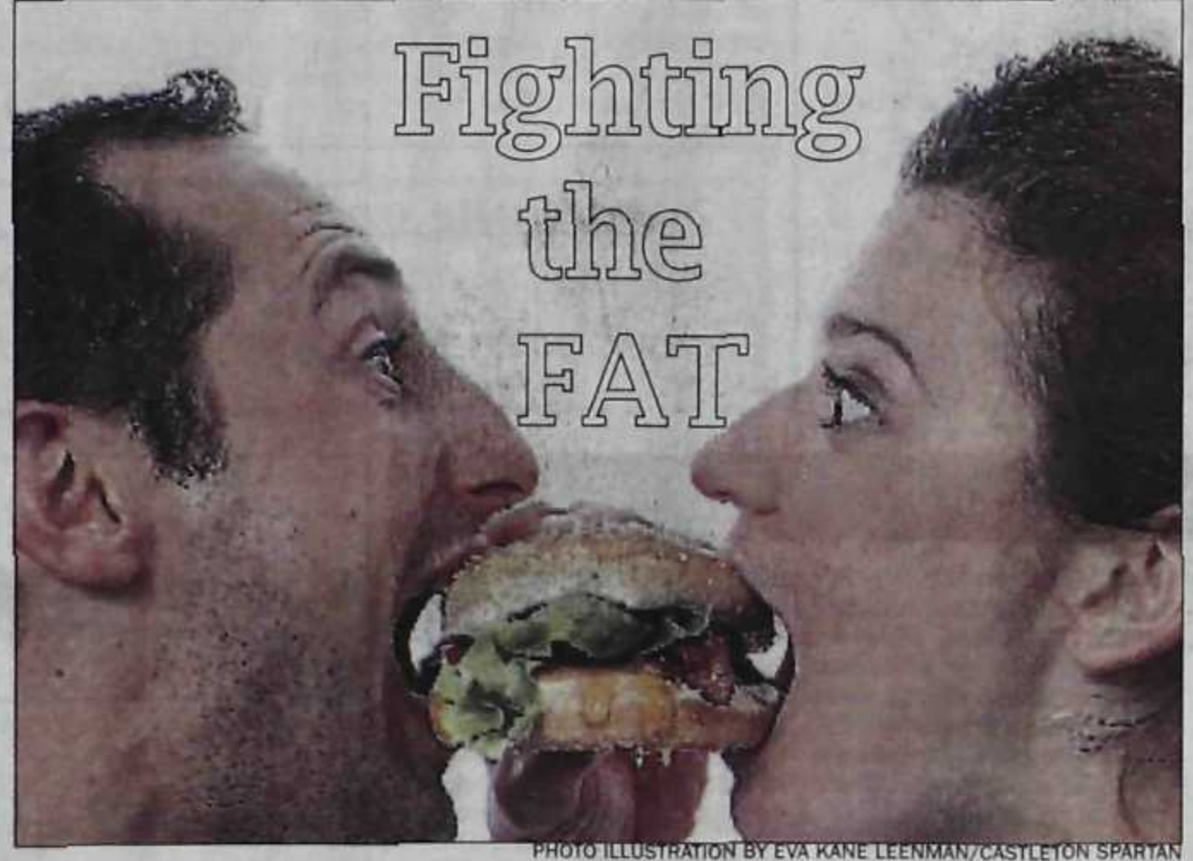


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN/CASTLETON SPARTAN

By Jenna Charbonneau
Contributing Writer

Hands on the cart, you push yourself through aisles of assorted goods at your local grocery store. So many choices pass through your head as the pale lighting gleams off the cereal boxes and dated music plays from the store speakers above. Names like "Pepsi" and "Lays" stare at you from under the shelves, attacking you with their tricky slogans and bright colors.

If you're a college student, chances are you have taken this journey to the grocery store. Away from your parents' home cooked meals, suddenly the power to decide what to eat is in your hands. The question is, are you making healthy decisions?

According to a Sept. 10 article in The New York Times, nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population is overweight. The word obesity is being tossed around doctors' offices and the occasional headlines of newspapers like a contagious disease.

Obesity in the United States is beginning to be referred to by many as an "epidemic." It can affect anyone including students in the small town of Castleton.

The Medical Dictionary says, "obesity is the state of being well above ones normal weight."

"It's a combination of poor dietary habits and lack of exercise," said Aaron Jones, a dietitian from Rutland Regional Medical Center, who sees people fighting weight problems from around the area.

What college students choose to consume has an important impact on their bodies. Everyday students step into Huden, Fireside Café, or the local Shaw's Supermarket and makes decisions based on what they want — and maybe not what they need. The freedom from home seems like a big contributor.

"I don't have junk food around me like I do here," said Angelica Mazzola, a freshman at Castleton. "At home my mom cooks me vegetables, but here I don't get that."

Julie Benzenberg, a Castleton senior said, "Huden is not exactly mom and pop meals."

Out of 20 students interviewed, all said being away from home has greatly impacted their eating habits.

"The food here is not good, it's all greasy," student Tylor Pechhan said.

Huden recently has added some more "healthy" options for students including some vegetarian dishes, but foods like French fries, pizza, cheeseburgers, cookies and ice cream are still there tempting their pallets.

"There's what the kids want, and what they should be eating," said Assistant Director of Huden Rebecca Kerr. "I think it's all in what the students choose."

At the Fireside Café there is a constant flow of hungry students waiting at the grill. Fried popcorn chicken, juicy burgers and greasy pizza are ready in minutes for anyone who demands them. The fruits and vegan cookies seem to be the less popular area to satisfy a student's hungry mouth.

Dianne Spangenberg, a Fireside manager, frequently works the register and is able to observe the many eating habits of the students that pass through.

"Buffalo chicken wraps and energy drinks," Spangenberg quickly responds when asked

> "It's true! I don't know what to eat. I just guess."
>
> **Student Kaitlin Mott on her eating habits at Castleton**

Continued on page 6 . . .

Communication 101

Communication is a wonderful thing, right? I like to think so.

Although, I'd also like to point out a common misconception people have about communication. Talking and communicating are two very different . ball games. Communication involves a mutual understanding between the parties involved. Talking only requires that the conversation or disagreement go on, regardless the level of understanding between parties. And I guess we can go as far to say that it only takes one person to talk.

We must ask ourselves an important question: is the message getting passed clearly from one person to the other? If not, the two (or three, or four) people involved are not on the same page.

At this point the individuals must make decisions. I admit, sometimes avoiding decisions seems to be the easiest choice. But the decisions we make while communicating are VITAL.

If two people aren't on the same page while communicating, it's a lost cause if neither takes the initiative to balance the scale. We must make the decision to either widen our perspectives engaging ourselves to understand our counterpart, or choose simply not to budge, too hardheaded to realize the importance of understanding. I'm sure we all hope to see effort coming from both sides, but in reality, that's not always the case. Especially in the case of disagreements.

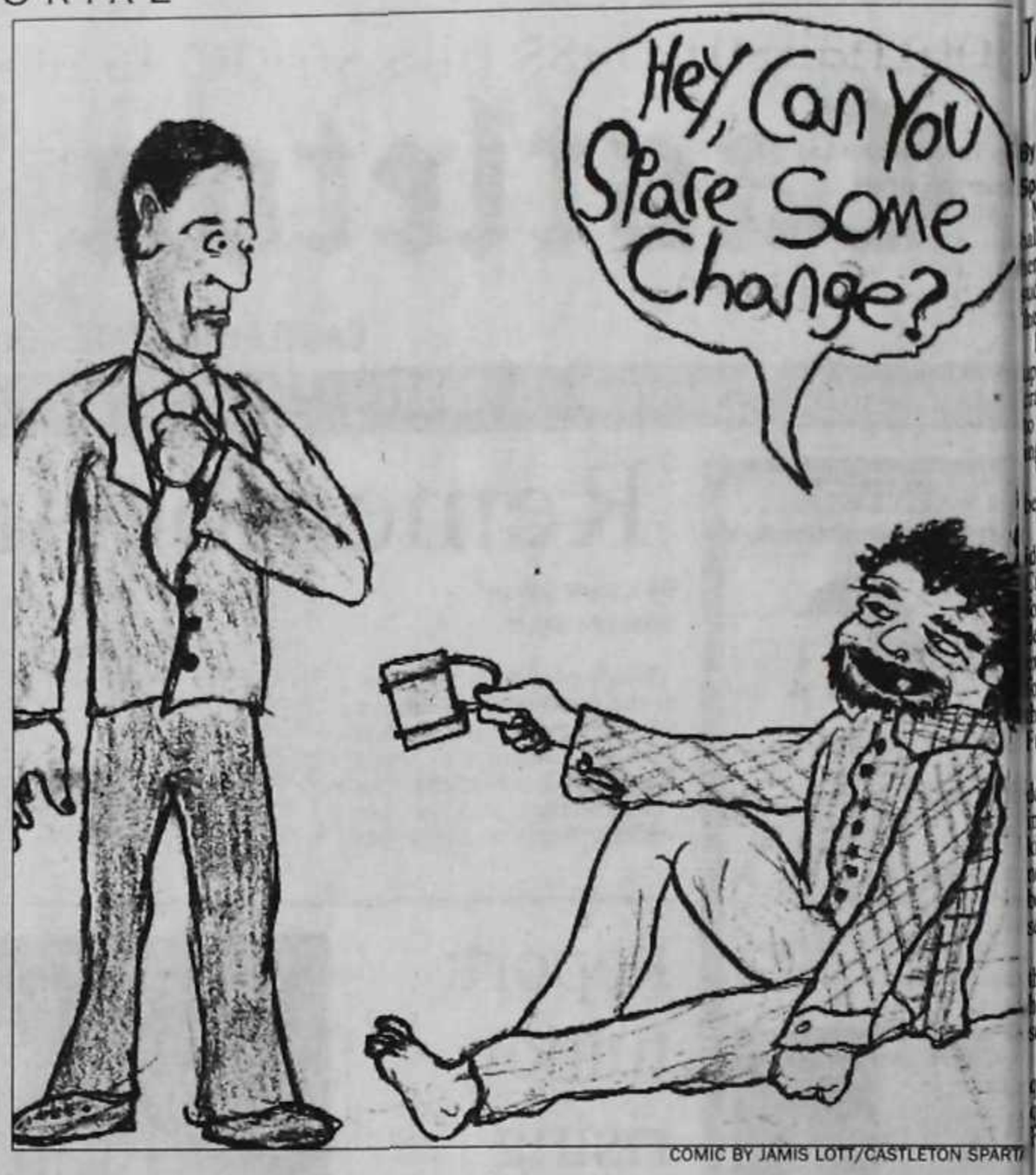
I must ask the obvious question: when attempting to communicate, what good does it do to yell? If you think that raising your voice will make you more easily understood, you're sorely mistaken. In actuality, throwing a tantrum does nothing for your credibility.

In argumentative situations, even at our age, some people cannot seem to figure out how to communicate. And you consider yourself an adult? Don't ask me why . . . maybe their ideas were never challenged in the past, maybe they have no concept of anger management, or maybe ignorance is to blame. Nevertheless, yelling and attacking never solves the problem. Ever. Taking a deep breath might help, however.

I'd like to extend to you an idea that's been very present in my thoughts lately. There is so much to be gained from clear communication. We live, learn, and love by communicating, and much is to be lost if lines are severed. Ideally, the world as a whole would communicate more clearly, more precisely. Problems would be solved through conversation and war would cease to exist. However, the ability to communicate is a learned skill. At some point, eyes must be opened before an individual can fully realize the importance of communication (including doing so respectfully).

To be honest, understanding yourself first, is the key. I must say, having been on both sides of the game (the yeller and the yellee), it pays to take a step back before your vocal cords get the best of you. And in the end, you'll still have your dignity.

-- Shelby LaCroix



COMIC BY JAMIS LOTT/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Dying in the name of low prices

"Wal-Mart worker trampled to death"

That's what one of the headlines I found on Yahoo read. I'm sure you've already heard the story - the one about the Long Island Wal-Mart stampede. Most of the other headlines read that way, but they all (for the most part) shared that same word: trampled.

A man was trampled. Not by elephants, not by buffalo, but by other human beings.

A man was trampled by other people. Shoppers at the Wal-Mart whose front door the man was working at - and he wasn't even a greeter.

Police say the crowd was 2,000 people strong.

Two thousandpeople waited outside and I'd bet my bottom dollar that if any one of them was asked, "would you kill to get that price on that flat-screen?" they'd scoff at and disdain the idea of taking human life for the opportunity to get the lowest price.

They were only looking to get the best deal -- hey, that dude was standing in their way! They'd burn holes in their own Nikes racing to those appliances if they needed to, and they had just put a lot of gas money into their pre-dawn journey, they'd be damned if some Wal-Mart greeter got in their way now.

And look, it's a first-come-first-serve world, and they'd been waiting since before 4 a.m. and they were not about to be slowed down.

They waited for those doors to open, and when they did - well, this poor man didn't have a chance. He wasn't an old man, he wasn't disabled, he wasn't a great orator with an uncanny ability to change a mob's mentality from crazed to sane. He was just a big guy, thrown at the front door because of his stature, not because he was a kindly gentleman, with a customer-pleasing smile. He was put at that door for a reason - if anyone was going to be trampled it wouldn't have been him. But, size be damned, he was trampled.

Straight up Mufasa style - those bastard wildebeests got him.

They showed the rest of the world our true colors. Yes, I said our true colors. We did it to that man, not just those 2,000 people. Sure, we didn't pull an all-nighter to grapple for pole-position at the Rutland Wal-Mart's doors to grab the cheapest foreman grill (well, maybe some of us did), but we've all shopped at the store that is the world's biggest retailer. It's an entity born from our society, from the country we're proud to say we're citizens of. There's nothing to say to defend what happened a few weeks ago, and there's not much funny about it. We're animals. Beasts. It's going to happen again, and there's not much we can do to stop it.

Two thousand people waited outside that Wal-Mart and now a man is dead.

Much more than 2,000 people really don't seem to care.

Call the cops? Damn right I would

I've called the cops twice in my life – both times when I lived in Fair Haven.

I spent a year living in a beat-up dive off the main drag through town: an old, paint-peeling Victorian that had been converted to house several apartments, and was covered in a crusty layer of pigeon feces.

Each apartment was essentially a live-in closet, layered in inches of dust and reeking of bleached ammonia – a feeble attempt to cover the old, musty, urine stench left behind by the cats of previous tenants.

Over time, it became clear that the quality of the building also matched the quality of the other apartment occupants.

They didn't own cars, but the driveway was always full. They didn't work, but always had money for rent. I'd leave for a few days, then return to find an apartment window smashed out and covered with cardboard.

I'd often wake up in the early morning hours to the sounds of doors slamming and people screaming at each other in the streets, threatening death and trying their damndest to come off as some sort of bona-fide, corn-fed country boy, street hustler.

Naturally, I had to call the cops a couple times – both for domestic disputes.

If I hear someone smash a window, hop in his car, and threaten to come back shooting off shotgun shells full of buckshot, I'm calling the cops.

If I see a drunken piece of societal scum slap his on-again off-again girlfriend in front of his four-year-old, I'm calling the cops.

If I feel the safety of myself, my friends, or my family is somehow in jeopardy for ANY reason, I'm calling the cops.

That's why we have cops. That's why we have 911. That's why we're taught in grade school to call a fireman if a frying pan ignites, or to call the police if daddy pushes mommy down the stairs.

It's knowledge instilled in us at the earliest of ages as an extra injection of pure common sense – if something bad happens, call for help.

So when the college students living in the apartment above Linda Wiggin heard h cries for help moments befo the final blow – then did not ing — I couldn't help but b bewildered.

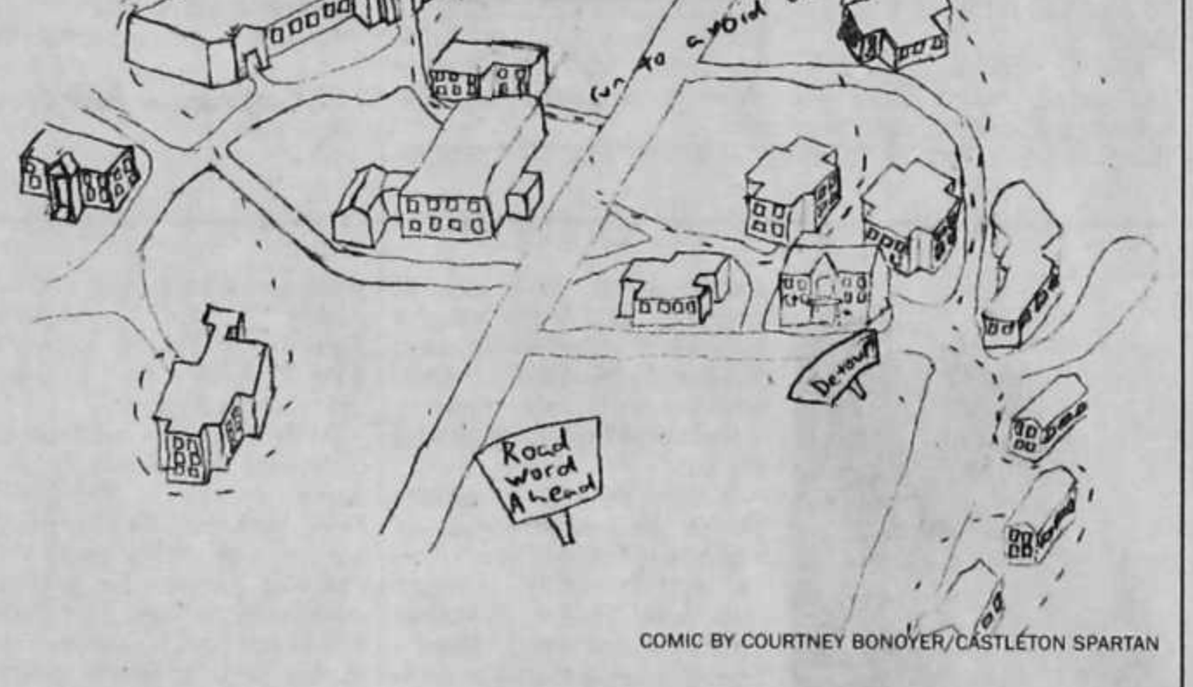
How does one ignore tha Knowing that the screams f help were followed by a awkward silence, the sound of furniture dragging acros the floor, and then a notice able weeklong absence of th person whose screams wer ignored?

It's an episode of "Forensi Files"; you yell at the T screen, lambasting the utte ignorance of those who l another should-have-seen-i coming killing go down righ in front of their faces.

If the students had calle the police – or possessed a ounce of common sense – Linda Wiggin may still b teaching her effective speak ing class for all we know.

But who knows. Mayb that's too harsh. We weren there. How can we say w would do anything differen without actually being ther and taking into consideratio other circumstances?

Like this: I would hav called the cops. Period.



COMIC BY COURTNEY BONOYER/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Letter to the Editor

While I commend the November 12th story (CSC Vets come home, share stories) on the substance of the October 30th event at Herrick featuring clips from Baghdad ER and an Iraq and Afghan war veteran panel comprised of students from Castleton and St Michael's, an omission needs to be corrected. Professor Carrie Waara, not I, introduced the event, explained its significance, and eloquently set the context. Professor Waara organized this initial "Teach - In" as a way to alert the CSC community to our current national political complexities exemplified by the personal stories these articulate veterans shared with their audience. I was honored to be invited to serve as panel moderator. Dr. Waara has demonstrated commitment to provide publi forums for us to engage thes difficult issues. Let's al applaud her and encourag her to continue her mission t challenge our political com placency.

Professor Thomas Conroy
Communicatio Department

Something on your mind? Let us know!

Email The Spartan @ thespartan@castleton.edu or post on our message board at www.CastletonSpartan.com

From the Messageboard

Responses to "Are Castleton conservatives opressed for their views?"

I graduated from Castleton in 2005 as a Sociology major. For my final research project in Research Methods with Professor Kuehn I studied dissent in the classroom. I focused the questions on whether people who dissented with the classroom politically felt comfortable doing so. While I don't remember the exact findings I do remember that the overwhelming number of people felt that they were comfortable expressing their views in class especially if it was a dissenting view. I think Kuehn might still have those findings,

--Andrew Bouchard

Responses to "Fox News: Fair and Balanced at an uneven scale"

I am a Castleton Alum.

This article and the election in general reinforce the following:

If you are 20 years old and not a liberal - you have no heart. If you are 40 years old and not a conservative - you have no brain.

This opinion piece shows a glaringly immature writing style no matter what you political beliefs may be. I would hope that at some point, you will be able to think independently about what is happening to the country and stop swallowing the media's version hook, line & sinker. You should google Sir Alex Fraser Tytler and see what he says about the common threads in the destruction of democracies. A liberal America is taking us down the exact road he describes. We are now moving from apathy to dependency. Oh and you forgot to include the other liberal mantra: Bush lied - people died.

--Patrick

You apparently have never watched fox news at all. You should try watching Hannity and Colmes sometimes. Hannity is a conservative and Colmes is a liberal so you get both points of view.

If you go to this link http://www.journalism.org/node/13436 you will see the the difference in the news coverage by msnbc and fox news during the election.

Please note that the amount of negative coverage of McCain and the amount of negative coverage of Obama on Fox news was exactly the same. At the same time the amount of positive coverage of Obama was actually greater on Fox news than that of McCain by a small percentage. That seems pretty "fair and balanced" to me.

--Jon

Response to "Castleton student back from afghanastan"

Welcome back Heather! Kudos for all of your hard work abroad and for your service to the USA, we love you!

-- Tiffany

Castleton Spartan

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Journalism class pits students against real world drama

By Terry Badman
Spartan Staff

Ms. Fuller sat nursing a half-empty bottle of vodka at her kitchen table, when she suddenly heard a knock at the door.

Rolling her eyes, she stood up and stormed to the door, cracking it open just enough to make out the person standing on the opposite side.

"Is there a problem?" she bellowed.

The voice on the other side identified itself as Chad Cioffi, a budding journalist for the Castleton Spartan student newspaper. Cioffi explained he was writing a follow-up article detailing the recent, untimely, death of Fuller's teenage son.

Fuller turned from the door, walking hastily back into the beer-can-littered kitchen. Cioffi followed nervously, closed the door behind him, and invited himself in — uninvited.

"Who the f*#k do you think you are just walking in here!?" Fuller stopped and scolded, pointing to the door.

Cioffi, noticing his etiquette faux pas, apologized quickly, then promptly asked Fuller for an interview.

Fuller scowled and walked back to her chair.

"Whatever," she murmured sarcastically, before sitting down and taking another massive swig of vodka.

The hostile tone of the interview that followed was not a pleasant experience for Cioffi, but it was a learning experience — in more ways than one.

The interview was, in fact, part of a staged role-playing simulation, put on by Castleton Journalism Professor David Blow's Media Ethics class on Nov. 7.

A small classroom in the basement of Leavenworth Hall served as Ms. Fuller's "kitchen" while the rest of the class observed the interview and took notes.

JOHN SHRAMEK/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Melissa Pope comforts Actress Frida Toth in an ethics compassion excercise

In reality, the disheveled Ms. Fuller was actually Frieda Toth, a professional actress. Toth was invited to the class to demonstrate the often-extreme personalities journalists sometimes find themselves interviewing for stories in the real world.

The class was recorded on video for later in-depth analysis by members of the class, allowing the interviewing students a chance to critique their own performances first-hand. The video is also scheduled for airtime on local public access cable stations in the coming days.

"We used the tape to dissect what was good, bad and ugly with their efforts," Blow said later. "That was a great addition this year."

The class was divided up into three scenarios, each featuring a different student interviewer and personality acted out by Toth. While Cioffi's task was to get the bitter, drunken, opinion of one very hostile Ms. Fuller, other students were asked to interview very different personalities.

Mrs. Tyler, again portrayed by Toth, sobbed behind her glasses before breaking down into a full-blown cry when trying to describe her son Robbie — killed days earlier by a drunk driver — to Castleton student Laura Olson.

Olson used her skills of compassion to calm the wounded mother, easing her back into a difficult conversation, sometimes by doing the best thing she could have done – nothing.

"One of the best things that can get people to talk is to shut up and wait," Toth later said. "People hate dead silence."

Olson agreed.

"I was trying to take it slow," Olson said, adding she tried to gauge the situation and determine the comfort level of Mrs. Tyler as the interview progressed.

"The hardest part was to . . . keep compassion in mind," Olson said later. "I tried to find a balance between being compassionate, but also getting the info (for the story)."

Melissa Pope also confronted a Mrs. Smith, a grieving mother in denial of the warning signs that ultimately led to her teenage daughter's death.

Pope showed a great deal of compassion under the circumstances, comforting Smith when melancholy emotions began to swell to a peak.

Toth admitted later she was impressed with Pope's ability to snag vital info, while also coming off as a kind and legitimately caring person.

"(Pope) very carefully detected to see if I was comfortable with something as personal as touch," Toth said. "(She) got a lot of personal information."

Professor Blow acknowledged that despite the fact many people might become overly emotional and difficult during an interview session, the harsh reality is that in the real world – in paid journalism — stories still need to be written.

Blow cited the use of diversion as a means of keeping an emotional and sometimes hostile interviewee in their comfort zones.

"Divert anger to the better years," Blow said, adding the method is a great way to keep the interview focused and less intense. "Any time you can bring a little levity to a situation is damn good."

Cioffi, who spent the bulk of his interview on the receiving end of numerous f-bombs and demands to leave from the disheveled Ms. Fuller, later admitted he wished things went smoother.

"I came in before she let me," he said. "It wasn't the best of starts."

Cioffi also noted that while it may be difficult for someone to open up to reporters after a tragedy, the interviewing process could be equally challenging for the reporter as well.

"I want them to know how much it sucks for me, too," he said. "No one wants to talk to somebody who just lost someone."

But not without a sense of humor and humility, Cioffi summed up his experience with Ms. Fuller as he walked out the door after class.

"I think I'm gonna stick to the sports section," he said.

Fresh Perspectives

Maria Arnot

Feelin' cozy at Castleton

I hadn't experienced the excitement that I felt prior to going home for last break in quite some time.

My body demanded the comfort of my own bed, home cooked meals, and the presence of my friends and family. However, after being home for only two days, I began to notice several inconveniences.

The inadequacies of college that nearly every student complains about suddenly seemed completely necessary and relevant to maintaining a positive college experience.

I tend to regularly bitch and moan about not having anything to do. When I am not doing my homework, my friends and I are constantly looking for a place to go or people to see — anything to occupy us.

The reality is though, as I soon discovered when I went home, there is almost always something to do on campus.

The college frequently books live entertainment and provides weekly movie nights. It also contains two facilities that are almost always available: a swimming pool and a fitness center.

Plus, the need to get in my car and spend money on gas in order to see my friends is clearly unnecessary on campus. I simply have to walk a maximum of 200 yards to see my friends — instant company.

Although Huden meals are often a sore subject to me, my mother was all too reluctant to provide me with the food I constantly require. I have never been much of a chef, as I'm sure few college students are. On the other hand, Huden and Fireside almost always have my back.

Although students have to walk to watch the movies that the college puts on (all the way to Jeffords in the cold…how awful!), I did watch "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" while I was home and it just wasn't the same as watching it on campus in Jeffords.

The Castleton movie nights are prepared in such a manor that students may feel as if they were actually at a movie theatre — minus the cushions. Plus, we don't have to pay anything to see them (it now costs $8.00 to go out to the movies in Rutland.)

In addition, I deeply missed my high-speed Internet. If any of you have lived in upstate New York or parts of Vermont, than you are sensitive to the fact that in such places there are limited options for obtaining Internet as rapid as that provided by the school.

Not being able to check my Facebook every ten-minutes was rather brutal, I'm not going to lie. Oh, and I was also unable to do my homework . . .

Do not get me wrong though, I did enjoy every minute spent with my family and friends, despite the fact that my younger brother did want me out of the house the first day I was home. And it was also nice not having to spend all of my own money for a few days.

I truly appreciated my bed and good food, not having to wear sandals in the shower, or worry about painful water pressure.

However, I am going to be completely honest here: I definitely missed good old Castleton.

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Custodian's action saves Glenbrook Gymnasium from burning

By Susan Hernandez
Spartan Staff

Beth Spencer's morning started out normally on Saturday Nov. 15. She clocked in at Castleton's physical plant building and set about her janitorial duties. After finishing a little early in the science building, Spencer said, "I went over to the Glenbrook Gym about 6:50."

Spencer's supervisor Christine Kwolek said, "she doesn't usually go to the gym, but there was a soft ball clinic scheduled at 9 a.m."

Spencer's first stop was to clean the ladies room. But when she got there, something seemed wrong.

Beth Spencer

"I didn't see fire there, it smelled like fuel - like when a furnace comes on. And I went out of the bathroom toward the pool, and there is a classroom on the left. It was full of smoke" Spencer said.

She immediately used her radio to alert security and to let them know she was leaving the building. It was about 7:10 a.m.

A school wide e-mail later that day from CSC Dean of Administration Bill Allen said that the fire department had put out a "small fire in the front roof of the building."

The e-mail also explained that the fire had been a result of a hot spot left from welders that had been working in the area the previous day.

"If it had not been for the softball clinic, no one would have been there until nine," said Kwolek.

According to Allen, the fire "damaged a roughly 3 foot by 4 foot section of roof, which has been replaced. There was minor water damage to the women's room and some smoke odor in the building."

"The smell was from the roof tar," said Spencer. "I went in later to pick up the lady's room and in the men's room, there were some tiles down."

Spencer joked about the firemen who had made a mess of her floor with their muddy boots. Then she turned serious.

"The whole building could have gone up," she said.

Kwolek agreed, saying if not for Spencer's quick actions things could have been much worse.

There is no final cost of the damages as of yet, but because of Spencer and the fire department's quick response and professionalism, damage was kept from getting much worse and "the softball event was delayed, but not canceled." said Allen.

Kwolek was not surprised at the way in which Spencer handled the situation. In the year that Spencer has been employed by the college she has impressed everyone with her diligence.

"Beth is an outstanding employee, observant, and conscientious. One of those people you'd like to have a dozen of," Kwolek said.

Construction driving some students crazy

By Jessica Lawrenson
Spartan Staff

No matter where you go on campus, it's likely you'll see construction of some sort. There is often something going on that may disturb your regular routine.

It causes students to walk in different paths or go through different doors in buildings, but what does it do to those who live in campus housing nearby?

Those living in the buildings near the construction sites are disturbed more than anyone else. It causes them to take different paths not only to class but also to other places, such as fireside and now the newly moved mailroom as well.

In the morning it seems to be the worst for those living in Haskell, Adams, and Babcock Halls. Many mornings, students in these buildings wake to the loud bangs the sounds of machinery outside of the fireside cafe.

Several students reported it is more than annoying to be awoken by these sounds in the morning, especially when you do not need to wake up for a few more hours for class.

A student, who has asked to remain anonymous, claims that she hates the construction because of how her roommate acts.

WYATT ALDISIO/CASTLETON SPARTAN

An excavator sits idle in the former campus center amphitheater

In the mornings when they are woken up by the construction going on outside of fireside, her roommate gets very upset because she has trouble sleeping to begin with, leaving her exhausted for class.

The roommate gets so frustrated that when she wakes up she slams the doors to her closet while getting ready for class.

This student reports that she is waiting for the day where her roommate will open up the window and yell at those who are working on the construction.

Caitlin Lawlor, a student who lives in Babcock Hall, states that she does not think the construction is too bad.

"I don't enjoy being woken up by it, but it is not so loud that I cannot fall back asleep afterwards," Lawlor said.

Another student, Emily Bission has a method to avoid the craziness of construction on campus, choosing to sleep with earplugs in.

This seems like a simple enough method but what about when the alarm clock goes off to wake her up? She also has a plan for that.

She activates the alarm setting on her cell phone, setting it to vibrate, and then puts the cell phone into her pillowcase. This way she does not wake up to construction but can still wake up go to class on time.

This construction is something students will be dealing with for a while and it may be hard for some. But students should try to look at it positively. The campus should look great when it's done.

Cookies for a cause

By Alison Clark
Spartan Staff

They come in four flavors, shaped like candy canes or hearts, and are edible for humans and pets alike.

They are the feature of Castleton's Alternative Spring Break club's latest fundraiser: homemade pet treats. They come in peanut butter and chicken flavors for dogs, and tuna or salmon flavors for cats.

The group is raising money for the club's trip to New Orleans this spring, where the group will volunteer at a local animal shelter, said Kasey Benthin, the club's advisor.

Animal Rescue New Orleans, where the group plans to volunteer, is a no-kill shelter that takes in abandoned animals. The shelter took in many animals following the devastation brought to the area by Hurricane Katrina. The shelter then experienced more recent damage caused by hurricane Gustav, which destroyed some of the facilities, Benthin said.

Sam Greeno, one of the club's student leaders, is excited for the challenge.

"We are willing to do what we need to," Greeno said.

"Even if it means sleeping on the floor," said the club's other student leader Sarah Pearl.

The 14 students going on the trip expect to feed, walk, and bathe the animals in the shelter, Greeno said, but they don't know exactly what their work will entail.

"I'm just excited about the community service," Greeno said.

In the club's history, students have been to New Orleans twice: once to help clean up after Hurricane Katrina and again with Habitat for Humanity. But they have never volunteered in an animal shelter, said Jan Rousse an advisor to the club.

The club leaves March 27 for New Orleans. But until then they are focusing their efforts on fundraising. In years past the trip has been completely covered by fundraising and Greeno hopes this year will be the same.

The club is planning a raffle and it will be selling homemade exfoliating sugar scrubs, selling candy cane Christmas grams for the holidays, and hosting Rail Jam, a snowboarding contest, Pearl said.

A Non Trad's View

Susan Hernandez

The final view

This has been a long journey. I am thrilled to finally be at the end of the road. I have had a great trip through the world of academia. There is a mixture of relief and anxiety at having reached my goal.

I have worked hard. My whole family has sacrificed so that I could go to college at an age most of my pears are thinking about getting ready for retirement.

I could not have done this with out the support of my husband and kids. Believe me when I tell you they are all breathing a sigh of relief.

I am anxious about what I will do now that I have a degree. I need a job and money. I started to send out resumes to any company that posted an opening. I was so freaked out I was applying for anything.

I found one job in the paper for a person to travel and organize the international trade show aspect of the company. I fired off a cover letter with the resume. When my husband came home I proudly told him all about it.

Leave it to him to bring perceptive to my life.

He asked me the name of the company and when I replied, "Stam and Rouger." He looked at me as if I had two heads.

"You want to sell guns," he asked.

I hadn't thought about that! I was so worried about getting a job I didn't think about what product I would be promoting.

That was a turning point. I created a plan that will allow me to substitute teach and keep my current part-time employment until the right job comes along. And I went to see Judith Carruthers.

Of course the family still can't resist giving me a hard time about going to college to become an international arms dealer.

Now that is settled I can concentrate on enjoying the final days of my college career.

But wait it can't be over yet. There are classes I still want to take — there must be stuff that I didn't get to do. What have I missed?

I didn't get drunk at the local bar. I didn't get laid in the dorm, or smoke a pungent herb from the infamous hookah.

But on second thought . . . If I really want to take more courses there is always graduate work. As far as that other stuff - I believe I took care of that back in '77.

I have some hazy memories of a college frat house, Black Sabbath, bongs, Jack Daniels, quarters and kegs – Yup. Come to think of it, I haven't missed a thing.

I guess the experience is complete. I'm ready to graduat.

What happened to Chef Troy?

By Molly Fraher
Spartan Staff

Huden Dining Hall. Some may have grimaced at the sound of those three words in the past, but let's face it, this year was different.

Enter Troy Peabody, or Chef Troy, as the students like to call him. Widely considered a remarkable cook and a man who changed the dining hall for the better.

"He was great," said an Aramark employee who wished to remain anonymous, "he took the time to talk to the kids and it wasn't a put off. He was genuine about it."

All of a sudden Huden was buzzing with the sounds of students claiming the food was improving and that they loved it. Even the suggestion/comment bulletin board was littered with positive responses. Almost all of them commented on the quality of the food and a few mentioned praises of the new chef.

Peabody had helped create a more student friendly atmosphere.

"He was always open to all of our comments and of course, loved the compliments," said sophomore Justin Garrit.

With good food came good conversation. In turn, the combination gave students an enjoyable environment, one that they felt comfortable in.

"I would only go to Huden for breakfast," said senior Kyle Brooks, "but you could just tell there was a difference."

However noticeable these improvements were, nobody could have foreseen that something was lurking on the horizon. Maybe life at the dining hall wasn't as hunkydory as everyone thought it to be.

Without warning, Peabody left just about as quickly as he came, leaving no explanations for his departure.

"The day Chef Troy left I notice a complete change." said Garritt. "The food was down and the presentation of the food went down."

Sophomore Sarah Flore agrees with Garrit, noting the changes since Peabody's departure.

"I feel like now, everyday the food's just the same," she said.

Huden, currently all dolled up for the holidays, survived before the arrival of "Chef Troy," and it has no choice but to survive after him as well.

Students know that all t new festive decorations ca make up for the familiar fa that won't be seen arou anymore.

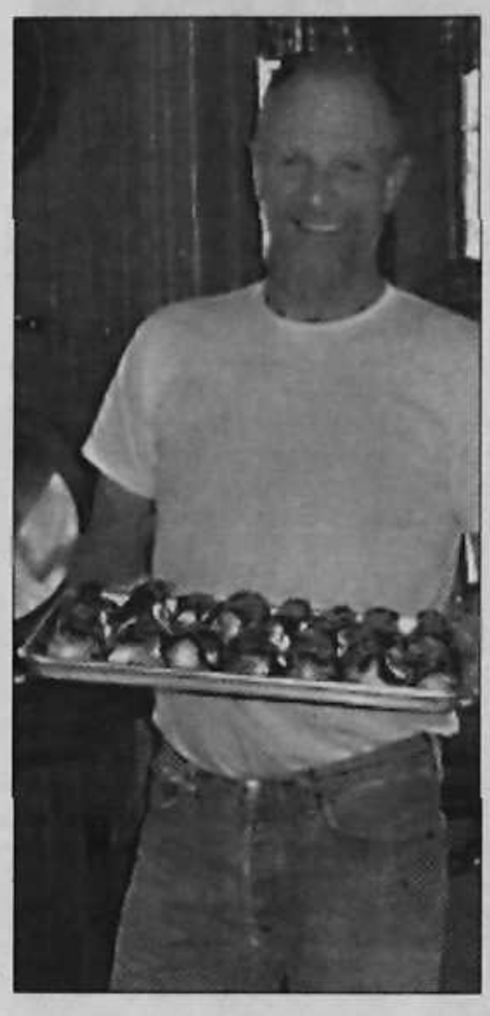
When asked about t absence of Peabody, a corp ration contract forbade Mi Williams, head of Aramark comment on the issue.

It's also unknown as right now whether or not replacement chef will hired in the future, b Brooks, along with other st dents are claiming it ju won't be the same.

"Somebody who had impact like that, they're ir placeable," he said.

A new restaurant graces Main St.

By Tom Conzo
Contributing Writer



CHARLES SMITH/CASTLETON SPARTA

You walk in the door of the refurbished train depot and are immediately hit with the smell of freshly cut apples, sweet frosted cakes, and delicious cinnamon buns. The original wainscoting wood interior flashes at your eyes, as does all the new shiny silver appliances including sinks and ovens.

As of April 2008, The Green Mountain Country Depot has become one of Castleton's most popular spots. The coffee shop-bakery-deli has a variety of offerings for when your stomach aches.

Kelly Draper and Lynn Kratochuil, previous owners of a bakery in Poultney, decided that Castleton was a place for them to get a new start.

"We have wanted to open this place for years," said Draper. "We feel as if Castleton locals are more appreciative of our hard work, then the locals of Poultney." In the near future, The Green Mountain Depot will be the location of the new Castleton train station stop.

Located at 266 Main St., Castleton locals will finally have their own train station.

"Castleton has not had a train station in years. We hope to further own business, and get more popular from the people stopping at our shop," said Draper.

People around town have been raving about how good the Depot is. Word on Main Street is that the depot is known for homemade desserts, meat stack sandwiches, and daily homemade breads.

"I come here every Friday after work," said Kim Miller, a patron and Castleton local. "There hasn't been one thing I've tasted that I haven't enjoyed."

In addition to the food, Draper and Kratochuil are very popular among the customers.

"They are very pleasant people, always greeting with you with a big smile." Miller said.

"When you walk in, they always greet with me a very friendly greeting," said Lydia Jenks, a Castleton student who grabs food there almost every day. "Besides their great attitudes, their food is amazing, especially their cupcakes and mac and cheese."

When spring falls, Draper and Kratochuil said they plan to make some additions to the building to add to their menu.

"We plan on putting an outdoor BBQ pit to cook our meats" Kratochuil said.

The shop is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday from a.m. to 1 p.m. For all you late sleepers, the owners urge you to wake up early because breakfast is only served unti 10:30 a.m.

"We enjoy being here jus as much as everyone else enjoys us being here," said Kratochuil "The college students and Castleton locals are very supportive."

Wolk named business person of the year

By Charles Smith
Spartan Staff

Castleton President Dave Wolk is the latest recipient of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year award.

He was given the award at the chamber's 110th annual meeting on Nov. 19.

Tom Donahue, Executive Vice President and CEO of the RRCC gave a myriad or reasons for Wolk's win. The chamber recognizes, "a lifetime of commitment to Rutland and Vermont; and the positive impact derived from major investment in Castleton college," he said.

The school's contribution to Vermont's economy did not go unnoticed.

"In his time at Castleton, full-time graduate enrollment has grown by about 25 percent," said Donahue. He marked the student enrollment as one of the primary reasons Wolk won the award.

"By the end of 2009, the college will have invested $51 million in students and the Vermont economy," said Donahue.

Donahue also recognized what Wolk has done on Castleton's campus; that he has transformed the school into an entirely different entity than the college he took over in 2001.

"Over the last seven years under David's leadership there has been a notable whirl-wind of activity and change at the college," said Donahue.

That whirlwind entails many things: newly-introduced majors to the college, the flourishing clubs and extra-curricular activities, and the school's many construction projects, including the Jeffords Center, Campus Center, Glenbrook Gym, and Spartan Stadium.

> "Its really an award for the college, not for me."
>
> **Dave Wolk**

President Wolk modestly accepted the award.

"It's really an award for the college not for me, because the whole college has done so much for the region," Wolk said.

He praised the combined efforts of the students and faculty, citing their volunteer work and community programs, as a key component in making Castleton the thriving business that it is.

Students, however see him as a large reason that the school is doing as well as it is.

"Dave Wolk's leadership has led Castleton to expand. There are better academic and sports programs, and because of their availability, he's improved Castleton, increased enrollment, and increased revenue by increasing the student body," said first-year alumni, Matt Karczmarczyk.

Tom Donahue also gave Wolk recognition for his long-standing commitment t the city of Rutland, and note some of the 37 boards tha Wolk has sat on, including the Rutland City Board o Alderman, Rutland Economic Developmen Corporation, and the Vermon Higher Education Council, o which he is also president.

The real point though i what's happened o Castleton's campus, whether it's thanks to the president o the whole school.

"I think it's great, I think he deserved it and I think he's done a lot with the college throughout the years I've been here at Castleton," said senior physical education major Kyle Vickers, "and I think there are still better things to come."

Student athletes bask in the joys of the Academic center's study sessions

By Kristie Dunchus
Contributing Writer

They're technically there to study, but more often can be found eating, sleeping, socializing or watching movies.

According to the Castleton State College Student-Athlete Handbook all freshmen athletes are required to attend "Step Time," an academic program designed through the Academic Support Center program to help freshmen with their academic skills during their athletic season. They're required to attend two hours a week, and although this may not seem like a lot, to some athletes this is a burden and very time conflicting with their busy schedule.

"We are already busy enough with practices and games," said Angelica Mazzola, a freshman on the field hockey team. "I go there with a friend so I just end up talking some of the time and not getting my work done anyway so it ends up taking up some of my time that I could use doing work in my room."

Some days at the Academic Support Center are very hectic. Sometimes there are more than one tutoring session going on and some athletes find this very distracting.

"Sometimes it's hard to concentrate. There are some days where it is very loud in there from different people doing different work," said Brittanie Nolan, also a freshmen on the field hockey team.

Student athletes say they have very busy schedules balancing homework, practices, games, and leisure time. Some feel having to go to the Academic Support Center only makes it harder to balance their schedules.

"I feel like it brings more stress because I know I have to take two hours of my time out of the day to go there, to sit in a room, and do nothing," Nolan said.

But not all student athletes feel that way. Some say they find this requirement very helpful because it gives them a reason to study during their busy schedule.

"I think it helped me because it kind of forced me to do my homework," said Kelley Tetreault, a freshman on the women's soccer team.

Men's ski team member Jeff Giegler agrees.

"I think it helps athletes because we have a tough schedule and we don't have a lot of time to study on the weekend because we are always on the road. So meeting with a tutor helps," said Giegler, a senior who did this requirement as a freshman.

"It was a way for me to go and get extra help for class. It benefited me my freshmen year. I had a good GPA," Giegler said.

No matter what student athletes choose to do with their time at the Academic Support Center, the counselors are always there to help no matter what.

"We are happy to have people here," said the center's director, Kelley Gilmour.

Gilmour said she does not try to force athletes to use their time wisely while at the center, just as long as they are not interrupting the people around them trying to do their work.

"Sometimes we have to wake people up that are sleeping, but they are the ones that are losing out," Gilmour said.

Although some athletes hate the requirement, it was made by the athletic department to try to help our freshmen athletes become the best students they can be, and making a commitment to a sport means making a commitment to other things as well even if we don't enjoy doing them.

"We know students usually have at least two hours of homework a week or more and to find something to do is an easy task," Gilmour said.

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More to be seen behind the scenes

Annie Hartman
artan Staff

The front lobby of the stleton State Fine Arts nter is a haven for any fan art and music. Student artrk is displayed along the lls of the vast, open lobby. e smell of oil paints and faint sound of a piano et those who walk through front door. It is a serene ce, peaceful.

But beyond the back stairs, a whole different scene. hind the art department, wn the stairs, and past the ge, any wayward wanderer struck by the immediate nt of wood.

More prominent is the reeching of drills, the unding of hammers, and high pitched buzzing ws.

n this large, bright room, the back of the FAC, even Gross gives his stage ift students the chance to ild and create something it won't appear on display mom's living room, but r entire community. His sses are responsible for all the artwork set behind the tors of all the Castleton ate performances.

Gross, in his second year at stleton, teaches in a very lirect, but effective, way. udents take on a task, nether building stairs that ad to nowhere or doors that en to a wall. Gross lays a ueprint on the work table in middle of the room that udents refer to. Then they t to work under the light urred by sawdust. As his udents hammer away, Gross serves, allowing them all to ke care of their own indidual projects that will erge, in the end, into an panding scene. He walks ound giving advice where sees necessary and help nen it is asked, but does not ke on a project for the stunts.

"My biggest job is organizing students into workable groups," said Gross. "Then they build the sets."

Currently, the class is working on sets for the upcoming show, "You Can't Take It with You," written by George S. Kaufman in the 1930's. This production will be Gross' fifth set designed and built here at Castleton. Others include Big Love, Once On This Island, Lost in Yonkers, and most recently, Philadelphia, Here I Come!

WYATT ALOISIO/ CASTLETON SPARTAN

Professor Steven Gross (far right) performs in a recent production "You Cant Take it With You", on a set he helped design

This time he is going beyond sets. Gross is also the scene designer and technical director. He is also taking on a role.

"I am Boris Kolenkhov," he said with a grin.

His character is a loud, eccentric, Russian dance instructor.

But for now, Kolenkhov will have to wait. Sets for the show must be completed by Friday. But progress is quite obvious. The stage, connected to the building room, is bustling with activity, but not the kind an audience ever gets to witness. A large platform takes up the middle of the stage, with students on top of it, underneath it. Other students bring out doors.

Mykael Harrigan and Louis Riquellme work on a set of steps and point out their area on the blue print that must be finished by the end of the week.

"We have to work wicked hard all class," said Harrigan. "We take attendance and get right to work."

Clearly, there is no time for anything other than work. However, students seem to enjoy themselves and each other. They are there to support one another as well. Advice can be heard shouted over the steady noise in the room, but the smiles are clearly visible.

"They're excellent," Gross proudly said of his students.

After class concludes, Gross changes hats several times as he directs lights, sounds, and his greatest challenge for this production: props.

"This show in particular is very prop-oriented," Gross said. "It's very specific to the 1930 time period."

The list of props in a play generally can be written in two pages of the director's guide. In 'You Can't Take It With You,' the list carries on for six pages and is very specific. The table must have seven plates, seven forks, and seven knives as well as a platter of spaghetti. The desk is even more specific, decked out with a skull made of Plaster of Paris, a typewriter, and a candy dish. Usually, a performance will have only one person working on props, this performance has five people.

Gross said he's done this enough times where he feels little pressure. He leaned back in his chair, calmly, explaining that he really believes that with such an excellent group of students and a great cast, the show will come together without a hitch.

"Everyone's working really hard," he said. "It's a fun show to work on. I think people will really enjoy it."

Entertainment In Review

Shadows

lm Review By Mike Weins
partan Staff

John Cassavetes is considred one of the godfathers of ndependent cinema after he eleased his directorial debut, Shadows:" a film that is pure nti-Hollywood and is raight from the heart.

No product placements, big ars stealing the shot, or ver-zealous sets costing milons of dollars. "Shadows" is movie that focuses on real uman problems, not overramatic soap opera scenes.

"Shadows" is about two rothers and sister who has to eal with racism since one rother, Hugh, is black and he other, Ben, looks less lack and more white. Their ister Lelia also looks nothing ke an African American.

We follow Hugh through is beatnik jazz scene chasing irls with his friends. We vatch Ben struggle as a jazz inger and we observe Lelia eing conflicted with her acist boyfriend.

One of the most interesting aspects of this film is how it was written. At the time, John Cassavetes was teaching an acting workshop. One day he decided that they were going to do an improvisational session. Cassavetes gave his actors very lose guidelines such as, "you two are in the kitchen having breakfast, go!"

This exercise lasted four hours and resulted in the script for "Shadows."

With this improvisational script, John Cassavetes and his troupe of actors shot "Shadows" for the first time. In this first version, the actors improvised a great deal and the shots were more stylized. But Cassavetes realized that it wasn't working. He felt like he was an amateur over using a cool toy.

So he tried again. They re-shot "Shadows," but this time Cassavetes focused the shots more on the human problem and not so much the artistic quality. The resulting version marked the beginning of Cassavetes independent filmmaking career.

While watching "Shadows," you can tell that it was shot on a budget, but it doesn't deter the story or the acting. Even one of the shots is out of focus and some scenes you can't tell what people are saying but it's still a great movie.

This movie was made with pennies compared to some Hollywood movies but "Shadows" is so much better than some main stream cinema.

A year a later in France Jean Luc Godard came out with his first film "Breathless." Even though the two films were made in different years in different countries, there still lies a resemblance.

Both films are very anti-Hollywood and were shot with very little money. "Breathless" was shot with mostly handheld cameras, while "Shadows" wasn't but still had the spontaneity from the acting.

Even some of the shots look similar. A couple of the opening city scenes in Shadows look familiar to the city scenes of "Breathless." It's not the placement of the camera that's similar, but the general look and feel.

In the end, "Shadows" is the beginning of a career that will be praised for time to come. It is a film that defies Hollywood's big cinema and helped start a revolution in underground cinema. John Cassavetes despised the controls of Hollywood producers and showed that it's possible to make a very good film that comes from the heart. After "Shadows," Cassavetes continued to make his films in an anti-Hollywood fashion, not because they made a lot of money, which they don't, but because it felt right. He wanted to express himself without any censorship and without any outside control. Escape the clutches of Hollywood and watch "Shadows."

Stormbreaker

Book review by Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

Author Anthony Horowitz wondered "What if James Bond had been 14 years old?"

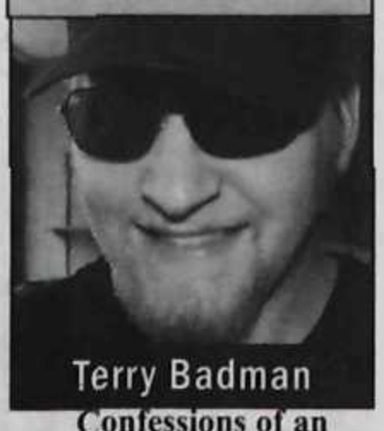
The result of that thought was the book "Stormbreaker." The main character, Alex Rider, has lived all his life with his Uncle Ian and a housekeeper known simply as Jack.

When Alex's uncle dies, Alex is suspicious of the explanation he is given for the death. He ends up finding out that his Uncle had been killed. On top of that, his uncle had lied to him — Ian had never worked for a bank.

He worked for M16 (England's version of the CIA). And now that organization wants Alex to work for them as well. Billionaire Herald Sayle is about to give England a lot of computers — of a new design called Stormbreaker. M16 thinks that Sayle is a bit suspicious. And they want Alex to finish the investigation that his uncle started — the investigation that killed his uncle.

"Stormbreaker" is the first in a series with more than five books. While it's true that the series is geared towards pre-teens, most people will enjoy this fast and fun-paced story. Out of five stars, Stormbreaker claims them all.

Scatterbrained:



Terry Badman

Confessions of an Internet addict

All right. I'll admit it – I'm an addict.

More specifically, I'm an Internet junkie.

I have been from the start, when I accidentally wired my family computer into a long distance dial-up connection in the late 1990's, unknowingly adding several hundreds of dollars in charges to our monthly bill.

To say my mother was less than impressed was putting it lightly.

Back then, before the age of the cocaine and Red Bull speeds of today's Broadband connections, even the Plainest Janest of websites often took several minutes to load.

Early Internet was a test of one's patience. If you wanted to download that Third Eye Blind tune you loved so much, you'd have to earn it, as the average song took about an hour to download at 56k speeds.

Flash forward to now, where we regularly download entire albums in less than a minute. I have phone, television, and Internet services wired through a single coaxial cable — my speed is still nauseatingly fast.

Naturally, as a viral addict with nearly limitless amounts of processing speed at my fingertips, I must admit that YouTube has become the bane of my existence.

It's an ADD-infected wet dream: giving me the option to zip from video-to-video, from the Angry Video Game Nerd to my squeaky-toned nemesis Fred, in mere milliseconds.

I rarely watch anything on the Internet – and sometimes TV – for more than a few minutes before switching channels. But there are some pros to having an increasingly short attention span.

On one hand, I get bored more easily. Which probably explains why I enjoy watching more of the Cartoon Network's Adult Swim lineup – mostly 15-minute episodes – rather than the standard half-hour to an-hour length shows.

But on the other hand, I'm also exposing myself to a hundred times more content and information than I used to. I read a ton of news these days, as well, regularly from several sources.

Even YouTube has links to videos on top news sites, allowing for instant access to information and bypassing the usual string of commercial interference. The same goes for TV shows, which often stream in high quality with little to no advertisements interrupting your viewing pleasure.

As expected, however, most advertising agencies have caught on to this previously untapped market of viewers. Many have now found ways to bog down the immortal YouTube with in-video advertisements.

It's the worst – or best, depending on whom you call "boss" — kind of advertising, plastering pop-up ads directly over the videos the viewer intends to watch, requiring them to consciously mouse click the ad before it fades away into the background.

It's happening everywhere. Myspace is virtually unusable these days, while Facebook keeps coming up with new ways to trick you into downloading their ad-driven apps.

The Internet is out for your patronage, begging at our digital doorstep until we begin to pay for what was once free (ironically, free porn is easier to find than ever).

As you read this, companies are devising plans to regulate access to the Internet, which could eventually lead to higher costs and less content for regular users like myself.

But like every good drug, the Internet's effects often outweigh the costs for many of its heavy users. Addicts, by nature, rarely measure the pain of consequences. It hurts sometimes.

But it hurts SOOOOOO good.

SOUNDING O F F

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Please contact a Soundings instructor to share your thoughts.

Thanks for your participation in Soundings this semester. We hope you enjoyed the events. Please send your favorite event experiences and suggestions for future events to Professor Keyes at <keyesf@castleton.edu>.

Quotable lines
Jazz/Tap Odyssey: Off the Beaten Path

Question--In what way is concern for the environment evident in this work?

"In the beginning, they spoke a lot about living in harmony with the environment, the blue heron and the Grand Canyon. Throughout the play, people forgot how to let nature just be nature. People do not need to "tame" the environment." -- David Burrows

"The metal-suit dance was an attack on human industrialization and the confrontation between the tap dancer and the jazz musician was an example of human/animal conflict, with humanity subjecting nature to its will."-- Steven Campbell

"It also had warnings of what can happen if we do not take care of it [nature]. During a point in the show, all the performers were wearing black to symbolize the death of nature at the fault of "the people" (us) if we do not appreciate and conserve its beauty. The main message is to be warriors for the environment." -- Brittany Colburn

To some, burgers are better

Continued from page 1 . . .

about student favorites. "It's fast food. Everyone needs an immediate (option)."

Being a former Weight Watchers teacher for 19 years, she is well aware of the affects of obesity and poor eating habits and believes students should be more aware too.

"It's all in the education," she said. "BMI (body mass index) charts should be plastered all over here."

As Spangenberg talks about how students really need to know more about what they eat, student Kaitlin Mott responds, "It's true! I don't know what to eat, I just guess."

Trailing behind her another student is purchasing a large bag of cheesy puffs and a Mountain Dew soda. Spangenberg decides to point out the fatty nutritional fact on the back and the student responds, "I don't care, I haven't eaten all day."

When observing the foods students keep in their rooms, there are always the constant college staples like Ramen Noodles, chips, Chewy bars, Soup in a Cup, and fruit bars. In the fridge you can find anything from bottled water to beer and soda. Most people know that beer isn't the best thing for you, but soda is just as bad. One can of Pepsi soda has 150 calories and 41grams of sugar.

"Juices and soda have high concentrations of sugar and can ruin your teeth," said Martha Petrisky a, dentil hygienist from Middlebury, Vt. "You should cut out soda entirely."

Obesity is determined by measuring a person's body mass index, or BMI.

"To be considered obese you would have a BMI over 30 percent," Jones said.

Fatty liver, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and hip and joint problems are few of the health risks that can come from being obese, medical professionals say.

Some Castleton students say they are aware of the risks of eating poorly and try to eat right, but there are plenty of chips and soda eaters too.

"I think I'm a healthy eater. I always try to get fruits and vegetables. I don't like a lot of sweets," said student Charles O'Connor.

And while some complain a lot regardless, many students said Huden is offering better and healthier choices these days.

"They're doing better then ever up at the dining hall," said Spangenberg, "I'm really happy this year with what they're doing."

For people suffering with obesity or who are just slightly overweight there are several steps you can take towards getting help.

"Increase activity, become involved with a personal trainer or make a plan with a dietitian for improving your eating habits," said Jones. "Eat a rainbow of colors."

> "You should cut out soda entirely"
>
> **Martha Petrisky, A dentil hygenist from Middlebury**

More spent on prisons than student

Continued from page 1 . . .

r e p o r t .

Gov. James Douglas said he supports of the VSC system, but admits there are some shortcomings.

"My first five budgets included a higher increase in education than the overall budget," Douglas said. "Frankly that's not very much."

The state budget appropriation for the VSC system is set each year by the governor.

"Every fall the governor develops a draft budget," Mark.

Then the politicking begins.

"Year after year the Chancellor tries to convince the legislature to provide more support," Mark said.

Mark explained that if the legislature increases the VSC appropriation than someone else loses. There is no guarantee everyone gets what has been budgeted, or that they can keep it once they get it.

According to Castleton Dean of Administration Bill Allen, more than $600,000 of the 2008 VSC funds were taken back by the legislature, it was divided by the five schools and the Chancellor's office.

"The recession that (Castleton) got hit with amounted to about $100,000 so far," Allen said. "A lot of people think we're going to have another one this spring."

The Douglas Vision a Plan for Prosperity published in 2002 advocated for "maintaining funding levels . . . even in these difficult economic times, if is critical that we hold harmless our commitment to higher education. . . we need to provide workers with the education and training they need to compete for 21st century jobs."

"Vermonters should not have to leave our state to chase hope and opportunity," Douglas wrote.

"In the early '80 we got about a dollar for every dollar we got from students" Mark said.

"Sadly if you look at the long-term history of the appropriations as a function of our total revenue it has been consistently down," he continued. "We get by with so little from the state it's almost as if it's become a justification."

The governor also hoped to improve state-funding, was also cautious to s time frame for any increa

"Clearly we have to do t ter," Douglass said. "I d want to promise it in the sh term as we face a down t in revenues but, I hope in long run we can increase s port."

But for the meantime, C students can expect anot hike in tuition.

"Next year we are alre told by the state that our b geted funds from the s will be smaller," Allen s "We have been told to st budgeting with a 5 perc reduction from what we st ed with this year."

But Castleton stud LaFlamme vowed to fight it.

"I will continue to wr letters and e-mails to the g ernor and my legislator she said.

Mark encouraged ot students to also be politica pro-active, adding that in t past "students have gone Montpelier and demonstr ed. Each of them then visi their representative a explained why they w there."

"It hasn't happened about a dozen years bu was effective," Mark said.

O'Donnell dreams of being a sports announcer

Continued from page 1 . . .

something I take it seriously," O'Donnell said, shifting his legs into Indian style, a frequent pose for him. "If I'm passionate about it, I can't stop. That's how I am with the radio station."

Down in the dungeon of Haskell Hall, O'Donnell broadcasts as one of the Castleton WIUV disc jockey's. Every Saturday night like clockwork, Mike's voice comes on air right after the end of Iron Maiden.

"91.3 WIUV Castleton, you're listening to Saturdays with Mike," he says, introducing the program. "We're going to start you off with a song, which will hopefully inspire some Red Sox fans."

"Tessie," by the Dropkick Murphys, rocked the airwaves just before the world of sports was broken down to listeners, along with some other motivational music to accompany the college football talk.

O'Donnell , the station's sports director, matches his song selections on air, with what's happening in sports. The Red Sox made a comeback, again, and found a way to game 7 of the American League Championship.

O'Donnell played Don't Stop Believing by Journey right after he spoke about the Sox, to motivate Sox Nation to keep the faith alive.

The entire time O'Donnell preached to fellow Sox fans, he multitasked by checking up on Phillies statistics.

"I listen to his show on Saturday nights," said Michael DelDotto, a Castleton sophomore. "He makes good points and keeps the hope alive for us New England fans."

When on air, O'Donnell shows the poise of Mike Golic on ESPN radio, able to improvise on the spot in a momentis notice. When O'Donnell couldn't find a piece of paper with college football facts on it, he quickly jumped into the Penn State game against Michigan.

For listeners, this improve goes unnoticed. The enthusiasm in his voice as he recaps exciting plays, and forecasts next weekis match-ups, derives from the passion O'Donnell has for broadcasting. He said he would most like to be a sports announcer.

"There will be obstacles, but I want to overcome them," O'Donnell said, beginning to address his noticeable speech impediment, a major obstacle for a broadcast journalism major. "I want to continue getting my speech impediment fixed, but unfortunately Vermont doesn't have the resources I need for speech help."

O'Donnell says he plans on getting help with his speech when he returns to New Hampshire, but was quick to point out others who have overcome the same problem.

"Barbara Walters was made fun of on Saturday Night Live in the 80s for her speech impediment. Keith Olbermann, and Tom Brokaw also overcame speech issues," he said.

Over the radio waves, O'Donnell is in control, confident, and running the show. In the classroom, the cafeteria, and the dorms, he perceives himself as shy and naive. He said part of his AS makes him hyper and energetic when he meets people for the first time, saying that often leads to one of two reactions.

"Hi, it's nice to meet you too," he said of one reaction, or his not so favorite, "Okay, dude, you need to calm down."

"Living with Mike was an experience," Josh Manley, a former suite mate said. "He was a great guy to have around. He was always entertaining, whether he was singing, or acting out a scene from south park."

Other suite mates talked about his work ethic and attention to detail with his school work.

"He was always saying how stressed out, and tired he was," said Morgan Sasso, smiling for a second before adding. "I miss living with that kid, though."

Tuesday and Thursday mornings O'Donnell can be found in Professor Thomas Conroy's mass media and society class. Before class he might recap the election, or maybe chat it up a little about a classmates new puppy.

But once the class begins, it's all business, and the passion for politics eclipses any other senseless material. Conroy not only has O'Donnell as a student, but also an advisee.

"He is very involved and very engaged," said Conroy, noting O'Donnell's knack to stay on top of school work. "He's enthusiastic, and speaks his mind. He is not shy about speaking up."

For the majority of Castleton students, if a year goes by and a student hasn't met "Mikey" yet, the scho year at C-Rock wasn't the fu experience. Most studen wait for a group of friends t go to Huden Dining Ha with, but if O'Donnell misse the packs visit to the cafeteri he braves the journey alone.

Even though he sees him self as shy, O'Donnell has th ability to sit with anyone i the lunchroom, no matte what social group they belon to. The table can be fille with athletes, preps, skate boarders, study bugs, or an other college student foun dining.

The group at the tabl makes room, and O'Donne squeezes in at the final spo It is a true testament to th number of people who appre ciate his company.

"It seems like Mike ha found a home at Castleton, Conroy said.

Student: She was a dynamic teacher for sure

Continued from page 1 . . .

ized, or even dead."

While Nolan and the others in the class hoped otherwise, news sources confirmed on Tue, Nov. 18 that their worst fears were in fact true: Linda Wiggin, 49, was found dead by police in her Poultney home.

"When she was first absent, I couldn't figure out what was going on and never in a million years would I have thought she had been murdered," said another one of Wiggin's students, freshman Justin Bouvier. "But I was watching the news on Tuesday night and they had said they found a woman's body in her home in Poultney, and I immediately knew it was Linda."

Foul Play Suspected

The immediate information surrounding Wiggin's death was vague, saying only that there was evidence of foul play, and that her body was not discovered until a second search of her home.

That information alone, while ambiguous, was enough to suggest to Sociology professor Linda Olson that Wiggin likely died as the result of a domestic dispute.

"I'm a sociologist, so when I heard suspicious circumstances, my immediate reaction was that there was some foul play involved," said Olson. "Every one-in-three women that are murdered are killed by an intimate partner."

Olson's hunch about the circumstances of the death only grew when police named Wiggin's boyfriend, David Denny, 41, a person of interest.

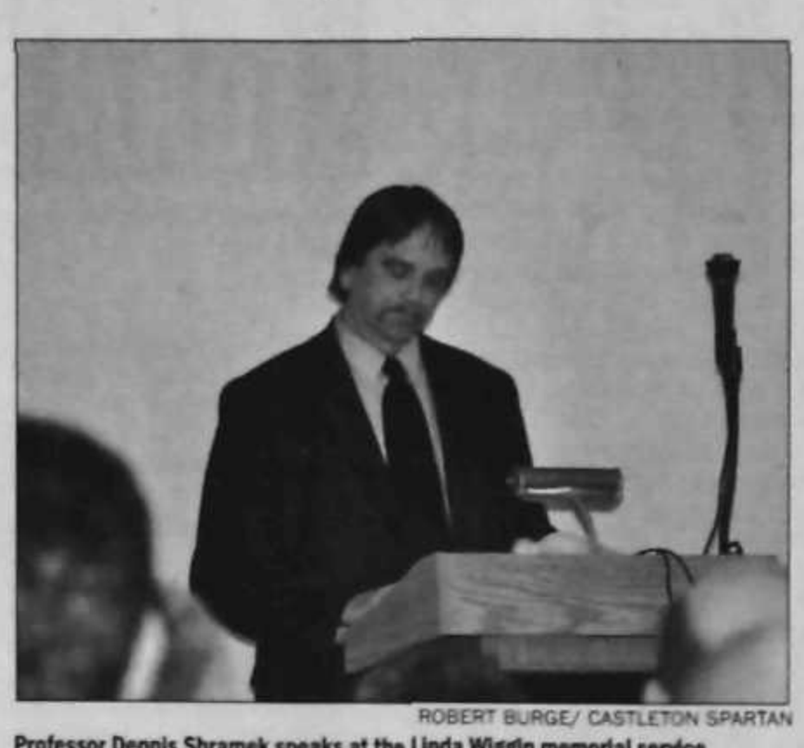
Denny was first considered a person of interest on Nov. 16 when a neighbor of Wiggin's called the State Police in Rutland about "a suspicious person wandering around the residence by the name of David" according to the Rutland County Police Report deposed by Detective Sgt. Daniel T. Elliott

Upon arrival, Denny was nowhere to be found, but by speaking with tenants to whom Wiggin served as a landlord, police learned that "[the tenants] had not seen Linda Wiggin since Monday (Nov 10), and that they never go that long without seeing her" according to Elliott's statement.

Further details in this statement include that the witnesses saw Denny moving Wiggin's car, cleaning her apartment with "numerous cleaning supplies," and on Nov. 10, the reported day of Wiggin's death, one of the tenants who lived upstairs from Wiggin informed police that she heard "muffled arguing," clamoring, and expletives being yelled by a man who she believed to be Denny.

After the visit to Wiggin's home on Nov. 16, Brandon police arrested Denny on a probation violation two days later in order to keep him in police custody while they looked for enough evidence to link him to Wiggin's murder.

After the chief medical examiner concluded that Wiggin's cause of death was indeed homicide, Denny was charged with second-degree murder on Nov. 19.



ROBERT BURGE/ CASTLETON SPARTAN

Professor Dennis Shramek speaks at the Linda Wiggin memorial service.

The autopsy indicated that Wiggin was killed by several blows to the head, and a friend of Denny's told police that he admitted to hitting Wiggin with a frying pan and then burying her body in the basement of her home. Three cast iron frying pans were confiscated from Wiggin's home, but police have not officially announced one to be the murder weapon as of press time.

'Not an Isolated Issue'

Olson, who in addition to teaching several courses at Castleton, heads up the C.H.A.N.G.E. Initiative (Creating, Honoring, Advocating, and Nurturing Gender Equity), and contacted the group soon after she heard of Wiggin's death.

"I understand that some people don't want to label Linda Wiggin as a victim, but she was a woman killed by violence, which is not an isolated issue," Olson said. "Something happened to our community and we need to look at it and ask how we can educate our campus on how to deal."

Olson went on to say that whenever a violent act is made public, it triggers painful memories for survivors of violent acts.

Aside from the campus memorial held for Wiggin on Dec. 8, Communication Professor Thomas Conroy suggested working with the Rutland Women's Shelter as a way for students to positively channel their feelings.

"I'd like to see our students become involved in some supportive activities as a response to what's happened or not," Conroy said. "Either way, it's an important civic engagement."

The C.H.A.N.G.E. Initiative continues to meet every other Thursday in The Old Chapel, and is far from finished in its efforts to increase gender equity on campus.

'Full of Life'

Castleton English Dept. Chair Dennis Shramek delicately thumbs through a pile of 8-by-11 inch pieces of paper with obvious care before identifying them as the contents of a file that was being kept on Wiggin as an adjunct faculty member.

Shramek hired Wiggin during the summer of 2007 initially to teach Effective Speaking, crediting her enthusiasm as a main reason for her hire.

He explained that department chairpersons and supervisors routinely evaluate newly hired professors, and therefore he had many opportunities to observe Wiggin in the classroom.

"I had noticed that she had a real talent for getting the whole class involved in discussion," said Shramek. "She always had a really good sense of humor and her students appreciated that, too."

After successfully instructing her Effective Speaking course in Fall 2007, Shramek approached Wiggin about also teaching English Composition in addition to another Effective Speaking course in Spring 2008, a prospect that Wiggin eagerly accepted.

Aside from being fully competent by Shramek's standards, he noted that based both on their performances in class and the evaluations they filled out, that students greatly benefited from Wiggin as an instructor.

"The students reall enjoyed her," Shramek said "I've heard repeated through the evaluations an after the fact that she wa interesting, passionate humorous, and a good rol model as a public speakin teacher since she did it s well herself."

While he insisted that th nature of the student evalua tion is to remain confidenti Shramek shared excerpt from this semester's evalua tions that were submitte shortly before Wiggin' death.

"I love this class," Shramek reads before flip ping to another evaluation "She is full of life and energ every day," Shramek pause and breathes deeply. "Tha one really struck me after she died."

Nolan and Bouvier attest t Wiggin's success as a profes sor and both said that th period of adjustment ha been a difficult one.

"She wasn't like you every day teacher," said Nolan. "There was just something different abou her. I am not really a public speaker, but she always tol me how good I was doing and what to improve. She was the type that you could go to for help if you needed it."

"She was a dynamic teacher for sure. She always kept class lively and you never knew what she was going to say," said Bouvier. "She had a mantra of 'ideas become actions'— if you think you can succeed you will, if you think you will fa than you will. And that s how she lived her life."

CAMPUS QUIPS

Sarah Kenney

Question
What's your favorite part of e end of the semester?

Ben Guihan

Chillin out with friends fore break.

Charl May

Going home for Christmas, ive in Vancouver.

Morgan Sasso

I guess knowing all the omework is coming to and nd. And long nights of edious assignments, late ight cram sessions are lmost to and end.

Dana

Almost midnight breakfast, love that!

Polished up and ready for sneakers

By Maria Arnot
Spartan Staff

JOHN SHRAMEK/CASTLETON SPARTAN

President Dave Wolk readys for a ceremonial tip off to open the new gymnasium

The beginning of break, as well as the long-awaited arrival of a week off from school, did not hamper the level of excitement at Glenbrook Gymnasium on Nov. 25. Despite two disappointing opening-season loses by both the men's and women's basketball teams to Plymouth State, the revelation of the new-and-improved Glenbrook Gymnasium did all but disappoint.

It was a night of firsts, as Castleton President David Wolk chose to put it. With a capacity crowd of 500, all anticipating the opening ceremony in addition to two back-to-back thrilling Basketball games, Wolk could only describe the atmosphere of the new gym as "electric."

Besides the first games on the new floor, Castleton took part in its first Northeast Sports Network live web cast of both the women's and men's games. Castleton's Mary Nienow scored a three-pointer for the first points ever in the new Glenbrook Gym.

In addition, the Castleton's new Spirit Band, directed by Hank Vaughan, was exposed for the first time, and performed exceptionally well.

Castleton forward Marcus Hass accredited much of the excitement to the spirit band. The band features Music Department Chair Glenn Giles and approximately 20 other Castleton students.

"(They can) change the entire atmosphere," Hass said.

To add to the ceremony, President Wolk presented both the women's and men's teams a souvenir plaque: a framed and refinished piece of the old, historic, gym floor with the Spartan logo, sporting the 1958-2008 insignia.

The remaining pieces of the floor were recycled and made into a massive sign reading Castleton, which now hangs opposite the bleachers.

The final part of the ceremony was dedicated to thanking several people who had been involved with the planning of the gym opening.

To finish it all off, President Wolk made the ceremonial toss-up before the games before the teams battled it out to conclude an exciting evening.

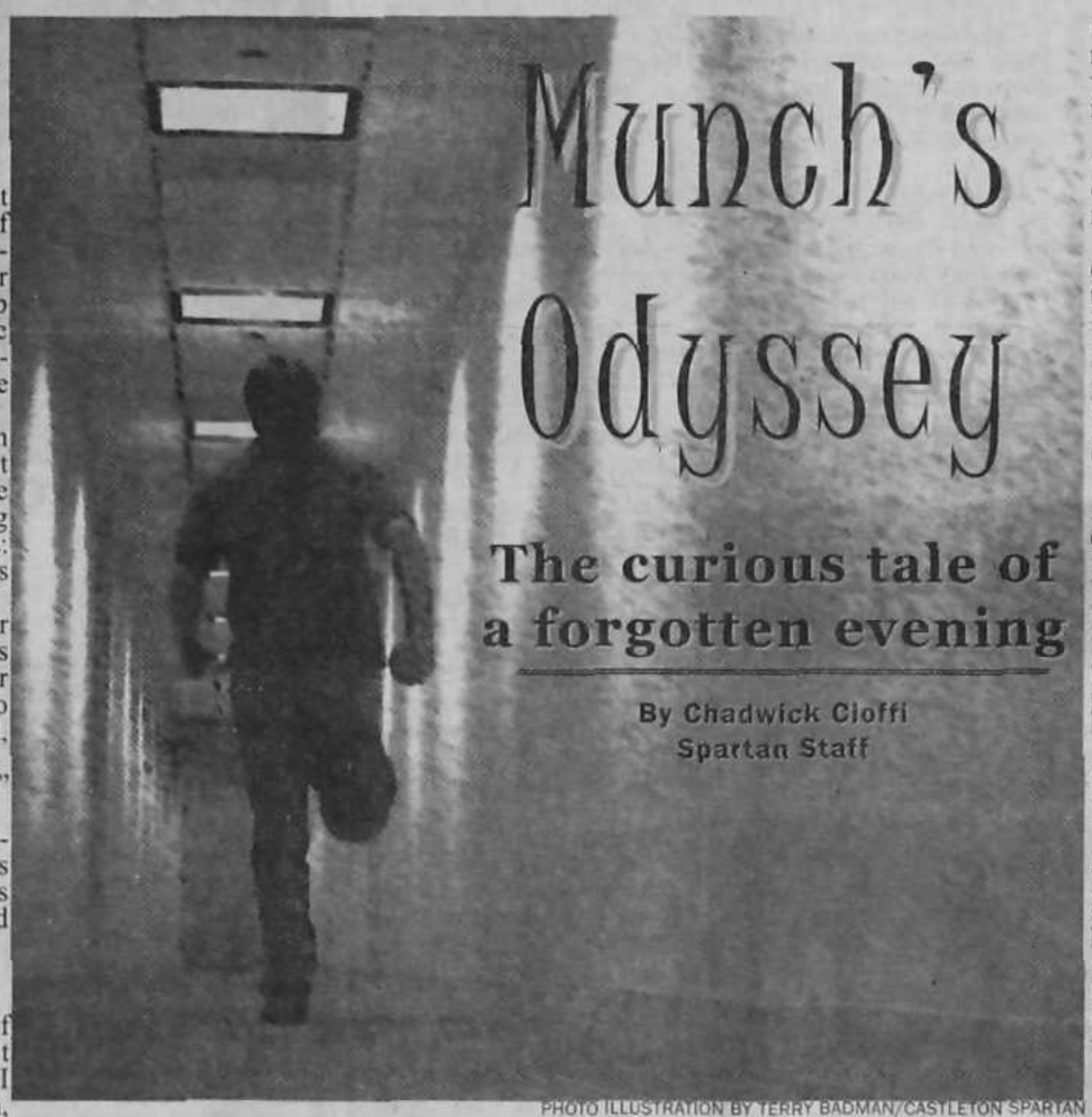


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TERRY BADMAN/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Munch's Odyssey

The curious tale of a forgotten evening

By Chadwick Cioffi
Spartan Staff

When he opened his eyes he didn't see his ceiling. He wasn't lying in his bed and he wasn't wearing the same clothes as the night before.

He got up from the pullout couch and collected himself for a minute, just before leaving the suite on the top floor of Castleton Hall. Each step down the hallway felt a little more sobering, but any recollection of the night before wasn't likely.

He examined his hand in the empty corridor, noticing it had 27 hash marks on it. The tallies were recorded during Jello shots the night before: the primary cause to his short-term memory loss.

As he attempted to trigger his memory on the events prior to this morning, another body entered the hallway. No greetings were exchanged, but still a quick hello.

"Thanks a lot, asshole," said the girl.

This groggy blackout victim, who will go by the alias of Munch, headed back to his dorm to find out what he did on Halloween.

Searching for answers

"I remember little parts of every event, but I don't remember times, or who I was with," said Munch, explaining the fuzziness still surrounding the night.

The breakfast crowd informed Munch on his antics from the night before. It was a lot to take in, Munch said.

He found out he had stolen an Indiana Jones whip, a pimp chalice, a stethoscope, had been punched in the eye by Public Safety, and got an entire suite written up for drinking — all before he could swallow his milk.

This explained the "asshole" comment that had been delivered on his way out of Castleton Hall earlier.

"I was nervous to go out the rest of the day," Munch said. "I just wanted to stay in my room all day."

At the start of the Halloween festivities, Munch had been given the chance to take a free ticket to Flubberbusters in New York. Instead of joining the mass of sweaty bodies in Flubbs, he said he would rather wander around campus and meet new people.

As the crowd boarded for Flubbs, Munch saw them off, waving goodbye. That is when his memory ceased to function.

What happened?

"For two weeks I would run into people and they would tell me a story about that night," said Munch, laughing as he thought of the stories he had been told.

"My friend Ben stopped me in Huden and asked me for his pimp cup back. I was apparently holding a whip in my hand and asked him for his cup.," Munch continued. "I told him I was going to take him somewhere majestic. He told me to hang on for a second, and when he came back I was going down the elevator."

Another friend, who wished to remain nameless, was with Munch in Castleton Hall after a majority of students left for Flubbs. He and Munch were on the top floor, seeing who was still around.

Munch disappeared from the scene just before returning with five packets of soap. The guys weren't using the soap for showering, but instead concocting a makeshift slip and slide in the hallway. Soap alone wouldn't successfully do the job, so Munch filled up garbage cans with water to lubricate the tile floor.

A crowd of about 15, according to more sober students on the scene, watched Munch penguin slide down the hallway's soapy path. During the next hour he managed to throw pumpkins out of a suite window, attracting the attention of the schools public safety officers.

This led to the suite receiving drinking write-ups, while developing distaste for this Munch character. He had again used his stealth to escape the scene, now free to hide out in Babcock Hall.

"I have an Indiana Jones hat – FIND ME!"

As the last bus was leaving Flubbs, freshmen Brittany Baron received four voicemails immediately. All of the messages were left by Munch — some advertising a slip and slide, others pleading for help.

"Yo, the CA's are after me. They know I made a slip and slide in Castleton. I have an Indiana Jones hat, find me!," Munches voice rang out from Baron's cell phone.

"He called me again after we got back," said Baron. "He said he was in a little white room being held captive and that he needed me and Will to go and get him."

Will Johnson, a Castleton sophomore, received a call from Munch after his conversation with Baron. Munch said to let him in the back of Castleton Hall. Johnson reached the back door and surveyed the area for his friend.

A light came into focus just by the wood line, with Munch coming into sight shortly after, wearing nothing but a green t-shirt and blue boxers.

"Public safety punched me in the freaking eye," was the first thing Munch said to Will.

Johnson said he brought Munch upstairs after that.

"Something happened to that kid, he was scared as shit," Johnson said, explaining the terrified state Munch returned in. "He just started to freak out. He saw someone get out of the bathroom from taking a shower, so he decided he needed a shower. The next morning he never remembered the shower."

Another Castleton resident shared Johnson's perspective on Munch's state of mind when he was back in the suites.

"When I left for Flubbs I shook his hand and he was fine," said Spikey Mike Baldino, one of the few sober students on Halloween. "When I came back from Flubbs he was cut up and looked disturbed and lost."

After breakfast breakthrough

After the breakfast, the day following Halloween, Munch had a major cognitive breakthrough. He didn't know if it was a dream, or something that had actually happened on Halloween. The image of running face-first into a fence was replaying over and over in his mind.

"I had these quarter second flashbacks," Munch said, describing the hazy memories.

Munch said he spoke to one of his public safety captors the following night. He told Munch that he saw the officer and ran down the stairs. Munch ran out of the building toward the construction site in front of Glenbrook Gymnasium.

Instead of jumping the fence and continuing his flow of ninja stealth, Munch ran face first into the metal fence. The memory of the fence just before impact is the only thing Munch can recall from the incident. Whatever took place after, he assumes, led him to the public safety hut.

Public safety director Bob Godlewski was unavailable for comments.

Munch knew after the hungover, groggy feeling subsided, that he would face some sort of consequence for his night on campus. With a glass half full outlook, he hoped he was going to get lucky and public safety would never find him.

Busted

He said waking up in a different room was a clue that he might not have gotten caught. But as sure as can be, public safety had caught him, and he was facing bigger consequences than he first thought.

Munch had a meeting with Castleton Area Coordinator Daniel Gardner, to discuss the situation at hand. They talked about what happened and the repercussions that were about to come.

The final sentencing was a two-year ban from Castleton Hall, unless Munch was able to complete 20 hours of community service and complete two apology letters. The letters are to be addressed to the former cleaning lady of Castleton Hall and the residents he was responsible for getting written up.

"I don't regret it, but it has made me gain wisdom from the experience," Munch said, shedding some light on his night of rather interesting decisions.

"I feel like life is living and learning. If you're not living you can't learn," he said. "You don't know what tomorrow will bring..."

Men's hockey splits weekend games

Chadwick Cioffi
Spartan Staff

The shot had been redirected into the net and at first glance appeared to be a goal. After the referee declared it was a stick above the shoulders call, the momentum of the game fell back into the Spartans' gloves. After dodging the bullet of the disallowed goal, Castleton rallied for the second time in two days. This comeback however, would end in success for the Spartans.

The Castleton men's hockey team hosted Bowdoin College on Friday and Colby College on Saturday. The Spartans held Colby off until late in the third. The Mules struck back and tied the score 2-2, four minutes after a Stuart Stefan goal. In overtime, Stefan found the net for a second time, putting home a power play goal.

Stefan was named first star of the game and led all scorers with both of his goals. Steve Culbertson contributed two assists to the win. Evan Romeo scored Castleton's first goal. Romeo and Omar Pacha returned to play Saturday after sitting out Friday night's contest.

"It was tough to sit out, you want to be in there," Pacha said about missing the match against Bowdoin. Also reflecting on the overtime win Saturday, Pacha said, "It was great, we really needed the two points. It was a conference game, so it was a huge two points."

CHADWICK CIOFFI/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Spartans Kirk Boldeuc and Jared Lavender chase down Bowdoin.

Pacha assisted on Stefan's first goal. Spartan goalie Jay Seals earned his first victory of the season against Colby, his 14 save performance earned him the third star of the game.

Friday night was a different story for Castleton, though, as the Spartans felt the anguish of a three goal rally being turned into a L next to Bowdoin on the schedule. The first period ended with a grim outlook for the Spartans, but the negative vibes would not reach the locker room.

"It was still pretty positive," Kirk Bolduc said of the atmosphere during the first intermission. "We knew we were playing well, and we just made three mistakes."

The positive atmosphere put the Castleton offense in a groove, scoring three unanswered goals of its own. Eric Curtis tallied the first goal, putting away a saved rebound shot by Dan Mauriello. The Spartans found its second offensive opportunity when Nick Westcott brought Bowdoin's lead down to one. Westcott sniped the high glove side, immediately drowning the Rutland Field House with a verbal explosion from the student section.

With just under 10 minutes remaining in the second period Marlin Froese evened things up at 3-3 on a power play goal. Froese took advantage of the man up scenario, and put a Culbertson pass in the back of the net. Bowdoin struck back a half minute later, scoring the game winner above the block of Seals. An empty net goal with 27 seconds still on the clock capped things off for regulation; the Spartans lost 5-3.

Despite the three goal deficit going into the second period, the Spartans were controlling the physical aspect of the game. Whenever the puck reached the corner, a storm of white jerseys would play the body, and eventually win the puck.

"Our game is physicality, you want to stay within your system," said John Lafrance explaining the Spartans' style of play.

The Spartans will next be in action when they visit Plymouth State Dec 13.

Sports Column

Matt Linden

With the holiday seas
steadily approaching, it is
perfect time to be in the g
ing mood and show oth
that you care. Since I
feeling the Hanukkah,
mean, Christmas spirit,
would like to hand out so
presents to those in the spo
world that could certainly
a helping hand at
moment.

My first gift is for a bask
ball team that used to exe
plify the way the sport shou
be played.

The Detroit Pistons ha
been serious contenders
the NBA's Easte
Conference over the cou
of the last six seasons, ma
ing the Conference Finals
all six and coming away w
a championship in 20(
Their emphasis on defer
and unselfish play separat
the Pistons from the rest
the league, with big-gar
point guard Chaunc
Billups leading the way
both ends of the floor.

After six years of succe
with virtually the same pla
ers, Detroit decided to tra
Billups, its heart and soul,
Denver for Allen Iverson, t
most selfish player in t
NBA. This move ma
absolutely no sense for t
defensive-minded Pistor
and they are struggling out
the gate while the Nugge
have significantly improv
as a team with Billups. I d
not understand if the Pisto
actually thought they wou
improve after this trade,
simply made the move to s
if they can turn a hothead in
a team player.

My present to the Pisto
and General Manager Je
Dumars is the receipt of th
horrible trade, which com
with the DVD "How
Practice with Allen Iverson

Speaking of horrible dec
sions, my heart goes out
the Texas Longhorns' foo
ball team and the incredib
year these guys had. Texa
beats Oklahoma when th
two played each other on
neutral field this season, b
Oklahoma gets to play for th
National Championsh
because a bunch of nerds th
don't watch football had th
Sooners ranked higher.

College football is contin
ing to falter without any typ
of playoff system, and
shows when deserving team
are excluded from an oppo
tunity to play for the nation
title. This is not meant to tak
anything away fro
Oklahoma, who has bee
spectacular all season lon
but Texas had the sam
record as them!!! Imagin
this type of playoff scenari
taking the eight best teams i
college football: #
Oklahoma plays #8 Pen
State, #4 Alabama plays #
USC, #2 Florida plays #
Texas Tech and #3 Texa
plays #6 Utah. I don't knot
how many times it needs t
be said, but this solves

My gift to the University o
Texas, President-elect Barac
Obama and millions of foot
ball fans across the country
A Playoff.

And last but certainly no
least on the Christmas list i
my favorite idiot in profes
sional football, New Yor
Giants wide receiver Plaxic
Burress.

To add insult to the ham
string injury that has side
lined him for the last few
weeks, Plaxico Burress pu
his football career in jeop
ardy when he "accidentally
shot himself at a nightclub
He did not suffer any seriou
injury from the gunsho
wound, but the fact that h
was carrying a handgun with
out a permit could result i
up to 15 years in jail. I really
don't understand how a per
son can accidentally shoo
themselves, but leave it to a
punk like Burress to uncove
such a mystery.

My obvious present to thi
embarrassment of an athlet
is a brain, something tha
many athletes these days are
missing.

Bold Prediction of the week: The Philadelphia Eagles will win the last three games of the season and make the playoffs.

Women rally, fall short in OT to Middlebury

By Mike Deldotto
Spartan Contributor

An irritated coach Tim Barrett walked into the Castleton women's basketball locker room during halftime at the game against Middlebury College this past Tuesday.

"I was animated, but disappointed in the effort [of the first half]," said the coach, now in his eighth season with the women's program.

"[Coach] lit a fire under our ass," said sophomore forward Kristie Dunchus. "He told us to play like we can."

The Spartan women went on a 15-5 run to open the second half of play. Jessica Banks capped off the comeback with a huge three-pointer to tie the score at 41-41.

The Spartans could not carry that momentum into overtime, though, and were outscored 11-4 to lose the non-conference contest 63-56.

Banks led all scorers with 18 points, and Laura Cary followed her with 11, which included 9 free throws.

The Middlebury game marked the second game the women have played in their new Glenbrook Gymnasium. The home opener was November 25th against Plymouth State. The Spartans lost 60-44.

"We're really excited with the way it came out," said Barrett about the new gym. "Opening night had a great college atmosphere with the new pep band and great fans."

"It's different," said Dunchus. "We went undefeated last year [at home]. We are superstitious in a way, but no one mentions it's the new gym."

This year's new players didn't know the old gym, however.

"I didn't really play in the old one," said sophomore guard, Tiffany Lafond. "But players say it's a brighter experience."

The Spartans do not open North Atlantic Conference play until January 13th. Until then, the Spartans will continue their non-conference play with tough teams like Middlebury.

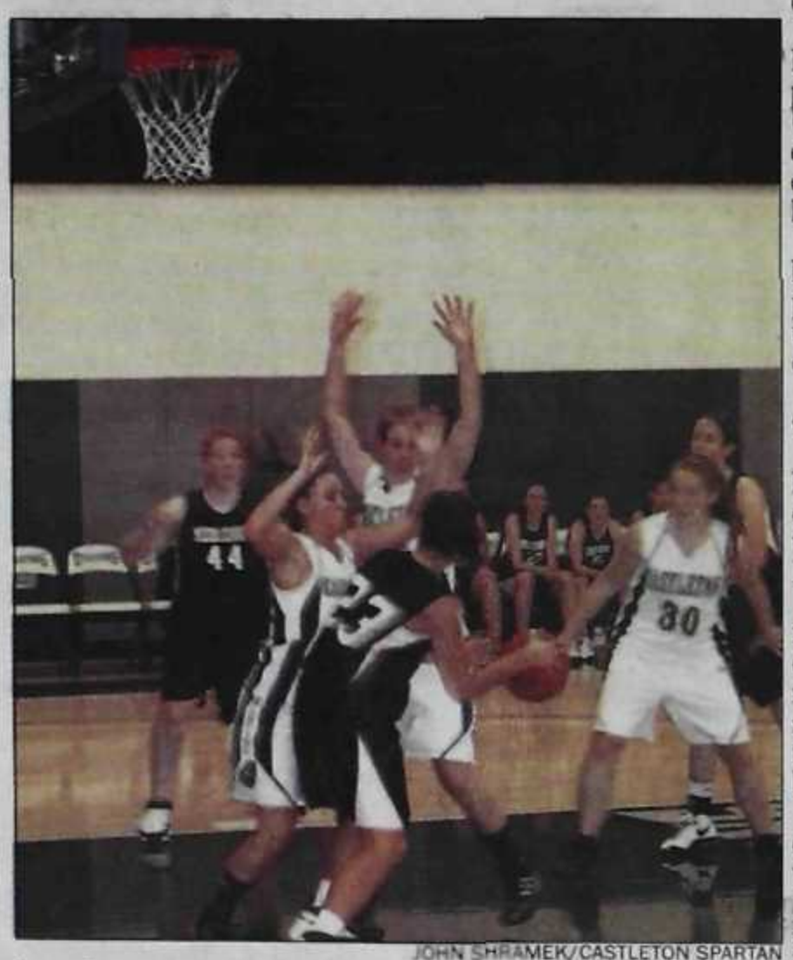
"Definitely, it helps," said Dunchus. "Last year we also played tough teams. It made us that much better come conference play."

The team will also travel to California over the break.

"I'm interested in seeing how the level of competition on the West Coast compares to our level here," said Lafond.

As for Barrett's game plan for the upcoming non-conference games, "We need to be more consisted on both sides," he said. "We need to take better care of the basketball."

The Spartans fell to 3-3 overall with the loss. They will be at home on December 12th against Western New England. The game begins at 7:00 pm.



JOHN SHRAMEK/CASTLETON SPARTAN

Laura Cary and LeeAnne Ketchen defend against Middlebury.

Spartans drop fifth straight

By Annie Hartman
Spartan Staff

The Castleton men's basketball team suffered its fifth consecutive loss Monday Dec. 1 after the visiting Middlebury team outscored the Spartans 102-71.

Middlebury's height was an immediate cause for concern to the Spartans, but according to Castleton head coach, Ted Shipley, it was the Panthers' physicality that caused the Spartans to fall short. Castleton also had several turnovers and ten fouls in the first half, both of which allowed the Panthers to jump ahead early and take a 49-28 lead before halftime.

But even while trailing by 21 points, the Spartans reappeared from the locker room looking for revenge. Matt Roulier and Seth Harrington teamed up to contribute for the Spartans with several outside shots, while Marcus Hass played the boards. But the Spartans could not come back against the hot-handed Panthers.

Middlebury had 12 players contribute to its win, which lifts the team to a 5-2 season. Senior guard Kyle Dudley led the Panthers with 15 points. Ben Rudin and Andrew Locke contributed with 13 points each.

The Spartans collected points from 12 of their 11-man roster against Middlebury. Harrington scored a game-high 16 points. Hass contributed with 14 points and six rebounds. Freshman guard Cameron Bodine scored 12 points off the bench for Castleton.

"The score doesn't indicate it, but I am pleased at where we are," said Shipley. "We played hard. Middlebury had to play hard to beat us."

After a crushing defeat against Middlebury, the Spartans hit the road again, looking for their first win of the season. Castleton was disappointed by Skidmore College (4-3), though, losing 75-60.

Castleton is still looking for its first season win and will travel to Utica, New York, Dec. 1,1 to take on the Wildcats of SUNY Institute of Technology.

Clark sets CSC save record in NCAA loss

By Chadwick Cioffi
Spartan Staff

It was David verses Goliath. Nationally ninth ranked Cortland hosting little Castleton State College. The swagger from winning the North Atlantic Conference title game had stuck with the Spartans, helping them almost knock the Red Dragons out of tournament play. But unfortunately the ball did not roll Castleton's way, and Goliath conquered this matchup.

"It was exciting, but heartbreaking," began Senior Brooke Towslee. "It was exciting making it that far, and heartbreaking losing the way we did and walking off the field. It was really bittersweet."

After the Red Dragons scored, Spartan goaltender, Trisha Clark, came up with some big saves to keep Castleton close on the scoreboard. The heavily underrated Castleton offense punched Goliath back in the mouth, scoring with only 8 seconds left in the half. The Spartans went into halftime deadlocked the Red Dragons at one goal each.

With a strong show defensively, and consistency from Clark in the cage, Castleton held off strong rushes from Cortland.

The Red Dragons would eventually score what would become the game winning goal, with 11 minutes left in the game, though.

Clark stopped 23 shots in net, a Castleton State College record.

"I really believed we were going to beat them," Senior Trish Watson said. "At the end of the first half we started to pick up our play."

Junior Molly Fraher shared the same view as Watson.

"We definitely could have gone further," said Fraher, talking about the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Tournament. Adding, "This whole year was a great learning process. I'm looking forward to next year, but the seniors leaving will be greatly missed, that's for sure."

Castleton outscored its opponents 70-45 this season, averaging three goals a game. The Spartans, more impressively, treated home fans to a 10-1 record. This season was filled with highs, like a 5-1 conference record and a 7-1 start to the season. Next fall the Spartans will swing things off again, in hopes of defending their NAC title.

CSC out in first round of NCAA

By John Shramek
Spartan Staff

The Spartan men's soccer team saw its season come to an end on Nov. 15th when it was defeated by the 10th ranked University of Rochester in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

Rochester began the scoring early as Sean Hantes netted a goal just 3:47 into the game.

The game remained scoreless for the next 67 minutes of play while the Spartans tried to find a way to tie up the game. In the 71st minute, though, Rochester broke through again when Steve Wells got his head on a corner kick, sending it into the back of the net for the insurance goal.

Spartan keeper Mike Anthony had three saves in the loss. The Spartans finished the season with a record of 11-9-1 overall.

This is the second time in two years that the Spartans have been knocked out of the NCAA Tournament in the first round.

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

ednesday, February 11, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

Sexual assault reported - again

Molly Fraher
tleton Spartan

Jo matter how many times 're mopped, the entrance s to Castleton's residence s are always littered with tprints this time of year. tprints of students who nple in and out, tracking in d and salt every step of the

n a perfect world, no one ld have to think twice about those footprints. The thought of them belonging to someone other than a faculty member or a student wouldn't cross their minds.

But the world is not perfect. There are many dangers out there that the Castleton campus community should be aware of.

On Jan. 25, Castleton Director of Public Safety Bob Godlewski sent out a campus-wide e-mail shortly after 9 p.m. notifying the college of an alleged report of sexual assault on campus.

According to Godlewski's e-mail, the alleged assault occurred in the vicinity of Haskell Hall sometime between 1 and 2 a.m that morning. The victim was a woman who was visiting the campus.

"It's unfortunate," said Castleton Dean of Students Greg Stone. "But through our investigation so far there's no heightened threat."

That said, Stone claimed the e-mail was meant to be a warning to all students in hopes of heightening their sensitivities about incidents like this.

It worked.

"If it's dark out, I don't go outside unless I'm with someone," said sophomore Kelsey LaPoint.

All over campus, flyers of

Continued on page 6. . .

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

CSC students and faculty brave the cold during the Take Back the Night march

WYATT ALOISIO / SPARTAN

Nicholas Soares, AKA Powerhouse, takes life in stride.

Catching up with CSC's Powerhouse

By Jenna Charbonneau
Castleton Spartan

Look around yourself today at the people who surround you. Most just blend into the crowd of the "status quo." They talk the same, walk the same and even dress in the same styles.

But every once in a while you'll see that one person who stands out from the others. The person who doesn't care what everyone else thinks and who's not afraid to step out of the norm.

When walking across the Castleton campus, you see sidewalks littered with people slowly strolling to class just wrapped up in the routine. Many of the students who pass by either look overtired, hung-over, or wishing they were somewhere else.

Then suddenly a strange blur of an object appears in the distance. Running out of the Fine Arts Center, the object starts taking the form of a young man. His arms are swinging and his backpack strapped to his shoulders bounces with every stride.

You have just witnessed the young man known by most on campus only as Powerhouse.

Powerhouse, whose real name is Nicholas Soares, is a 21-year-old junior at Castleton. Originally from Randolph, Vt., Powerhouse is the oldest of three siblings and has been living in the Ellis dorm for three years now.

Nicknamed by student Eric Jipner, Powerhouse has practically become an icon on campus.

"Eric had a roommate named Nick already, so using my real name would have been confusing," Powerhouse said. "He thought I was too small and I needed to get jacked."

Jipner, who no longer attends CSC, gave Soares the nickname during their freshman year and it quickly spread like wildfire among students, teachers, and faculty.

Continued on page 6. . .

Economy raises college cost concerns

By Ashley Manley
Castleton Spartan

The current economic crisis has many college students across the country wondering if they will be able to afford to pay for their college education. However, for Vermont State Colleges the current economic state hasn't caused big changes — yet.

Vermont State College students will still be offered loans and financial aid. And as for students' or parents' ability to repay student loans, the outcome has yet to be seen.

"We haven't seen big changes," said Irene Racz, director of Public Affairs for Vermont Student Assistant Corporation. "It's not going to happen quickly."

In fact, Racz said the effects of the economy on students' and parents' ability to repay will not be seen until next year because the information collected by the federal government is recorded a year after the fact.

The Perspective of One Vermont State College

The current default rate for Castleton State College is 2.8 percent, said Bill Allen, Castleton dean of administration

"This number reflects the students who are already in repayment. So it doesn't reflect current economic conditions," said Allen. "We are very lucky here at Castleton because our rate is usually at or below the national average."

And although lenders have tightened up the loan process, it hasn't affected the ability of students to get a loan, said Kathy O'Meara, director of financial aid at CSC. She also believes Vermont students will continue to be offered federal loans and grants.

"It's monitored by the government. And we hope that

Continued on page 6. . .

JVM at Castleton? It could happen

y Courtney Bonoyer
astleton Spartan

If Vermont Gov. James ouglas has his way, Castlen State College will at me point be referred to as e University of Vermont at astleton.

In his inaugural address e governor talked about the ssibility of merging UVM ith the five Vermont State olleges: Castleton, Lyndon, ohnson, Vermont Tech. nd Community College of Vermont.

"We can establish a higher education system better positioned to meet the needs of the student bodies," Castleton President Dave Wolk said. "This marriage of resources from infrastructure to administration, programs to athletics, will allow each college the freedom and flexibility to better focus on targeted academics, offering the very best to

Continued on page 6. . .

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Worthy Words

"I have never let schooling interfere with my education."
• Mark Twain

Awwwww kitties!
Page 7

Index

Editorial	Page 2
News	Page 3 - 4
Arts & Entertainment	Page 5
Front & Back	Page 6
On Campus	Page 7
Sports	Page 8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's time for CSC men to take a stand

On Monday, Jan. 26, a member of our community was violently and grossly violated on our campus. The official report by Public Safety stated that the individual attacked was a "visitor," as if that minimized the crime. The issue is not whether the sexual assault happened to a visitor or a resident of Castleton, the fact remains that it happened and it happened on our campus to a member of our community. This crime serves as proof of the relevance and validity of on-campus organizations such as the CHANGE Initiative and the new Castleton chapter: One in Four.

The organization One in Four took its name from a deeply troubling sexual violence statistic: one in four college women have survived rape or attempted rape. In other words, one out of four of our classmates will be sexually assaulted while enrolled at CSC. However, there are a few of us men, who are determined to eliminate that statistic. The group One in Four is composed of college students (males) who have made a commitment to educate their male peers in the issues of sexual violence. Very soon many of you will see us present to you the "Men's Program" in either the residence halls or in classrooms. Our goal is not to alienate men or blame rape on men. Rather our goal is to build a network of allies using men as part of the solution to end sexual assault.

So far our group is composed of a faculty advisor, Linda Olson, and students Jaklyn Van Manen, Bobby Burge, Douglas Phillips, Edward McNulty, Vicki Gardner, and Adalberto Silva. We all joined One in Four because we all realize and accept the importance and gravity of these issues. Although we all come from diverse backgrounds with different interests, we all understand that rape is not a women's issue. Rape is an issue that affects us all. We invite you all to join us in changing our campus culture to one that does not condone sexual violence against women, and help us in our efforts to create an environment that is safe for all members of the college community.

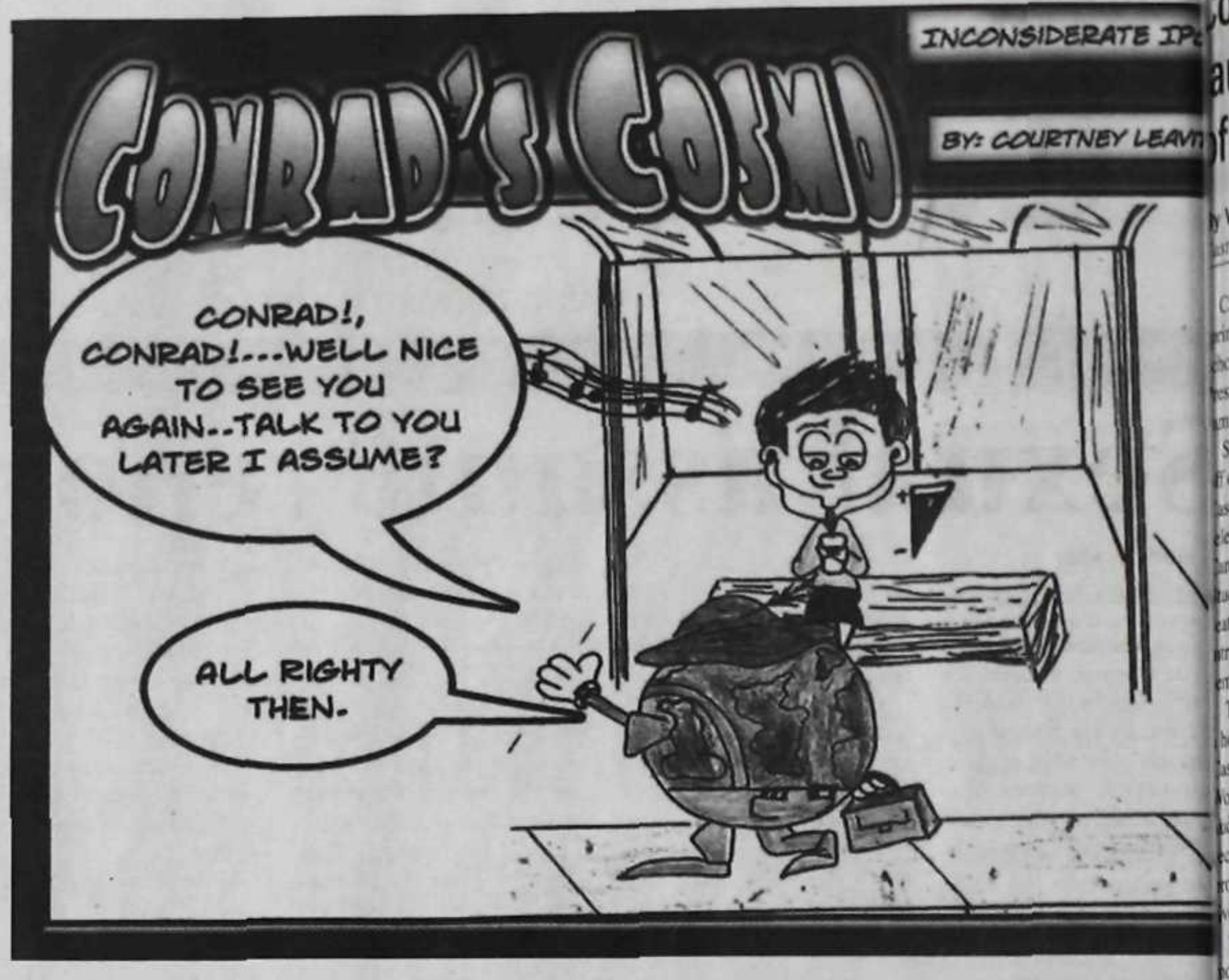
-Adalberto Silva
Castleton student and member of One-In-Four

A word of thanks

On behalf of my family, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the faculty, students, friends, and neighbors of Castleton State College for embracing my wife and our four sons with your kindness while we made plans to remember my late uncle, Christopher Clarke White.

As everyone was aware, Chris' life revolved around the College. It was his "family." He was brilliant, eccentric, kind, funny, thoughtful, dedicated, generous, and sometimes he acted like a young kid. Those qualities were all related to me and my family by so many of you who attended Chris' memorial service and later at the luncheon given by the College. You gave us an insight to my uncle that learned that he played the violin and even serenaded a few lucky diners. We certainly didn't know how well loved he was as a professor, mentor and as a friend. He was a creature of habit. Dining every day at the Birdseye Diner, meeting for coffee and danish daily with Karen and Rita, and wearing his tie tucked into his belt each day. Your stories about my uncle were truly appreciated and will always be fondly remembered. Thank you citizens of Castleton for extending your warmth to me and my family and for being such a large part of a meaningful life for my uncle, Christopher White.

Stuart C. Linden
and Family


CONRAD'S COSMO
INCONSIDERATE IP
BY: COURTNEY LEAV
CONRAD!, CONRAD!...WELL NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN..TALK TO YOU LATER I ASSUME?
ALL RIGHTY THEN.

A word in defense of "Africa"

Parking on campus can be as hard as looking for a spot in Boston the day of a Red Sox Game.

One thing every student has in common is the hatred of a particular parking option, and it is always the last option. We will drive around all the other parking lots several times before even considering it an option. The hope is maintained until the slow, upsetting, and mood altering realization is reached-- you have to park in Africa.

Do all the feelings we experience when having to park in a parking lot really express how our campus feels about the entire continent of Africa? Are we consciously saying that Africa is a terrible place that we all hate?

I suppose the naming of the parking lot was an innocent development, and not a well-planned or thought-out one. That being the case, one should come to realize the vastness of negative connotations we are ascribing to an entire continent in an innocent discontent for parking.

Africa (the continent) is possibly one of the best examples of the geographical ignorance Americans seemingly inherently possess. Much of the problem stems from the negative news coverage that seems to only show Africa in war, travesty, or poverty. Not only is the news media to blame, but you could also, as I know some do, take stabs at the effects of Disney films, or Hollywood in general, in the misguided image of Africa.

The image of Africa presented is one of a land of unresting problems and war, of crimes against humanity and death, of Charlton Heston as Moses and an all white cast in "The Ten Commandments," of poverty and starvation, of Simba fighting his uncle Scar, of uninhabitable desert and unexplored jungles, of Alex, Marty, Melman, and Gloria the cast of Madagascar becoming stranded, and of savagery and lack of modern civilization. None of the preceding images could be further from the truth.

Let us not forget that without that parking lot there would not be enough parking for people on campus. It would seem that some of the inaccurate perceptions of Africa most hold could have led to its name representing a parking lot. There was a time when the parking lot was just a gravel space for parking; this could have led to a connection between it and a desert. It would be true to say that throughout history people have used up their own resources, or sought resources not found in their realm, and thrust upon Africa to get what they needed.

In this sense we could accurately relate the space that the parking lot takes up to the oppression Africa has had to endure at the expense of the insatiable European and American countries, or for parking in our case. It doesn't seem, however, that this connection was formulated before the name was attached.

One could relate the guard shack and stronghold of securities cameras to the colonization and tight control maintained by foreign powers. Throughout African history you can find control being maintained by a foreign power to preserve the interest of that power.

This probably isn't the case as both were necessary measures to prevent unmentionably terrible crimes from occurring. For comparison though, such was the life for African women all throughout its colonization, without much defense for them, until eventually the oppression was overcome (although some areas are still trying to overcome cultural dominance). I cannot believe that one walks among us who would make this terrible connection and find it appropriate to then name the lot as such.

If we are to label parts of our life here on campus after world regions perhaps we should start referring the construction on camp as "America." Much like t world, we the students, ha to deal with America on daily basis weather we w to or not.

America has essential swooped in and changed o daily lives on campus, ma ing sure all of its priorit outweigh ours, leaving little choice but to contin our daily life with the pes inconvenience that promis a better overall campus life.

Nothing represents the si of hope for an improved exi tence more then when Ame ica occupies your country, in our case campus, after all

America's intentions a pure, right? When Ameri finishes we will be better th before. There is nothing th could improve this scho more than a new student ce ter.

Except, of course, the ne football team, for surely not ing improves a school's qua ity of education better then great football program.

No one will, of cours go around relating Ameri to negative things, as the shouldn't, but the same co notations would be made with calling a parking lot A rica.

-- Scott L. Bahan

14 gold medals and one big bong rip

In light of recent scandals, I must mention *one* that all of Vermont must be smirking about.

Who knew that marijuana is the breakfast of champions?

Michael Phelps sure did.

We've all seen the photo spreads - Mr. Phelps and his trusty "marijuana pipe" (*BONG!*). The first thought that came to mind - Olympian and *pot* in the same sentence? Three cheers for stoner society!

My thoughts were clearly echoed, as Phelps came up in conversation *countless* times on the day his photo was released.

I just can't help but to think, He's amazing at what he does - world record holder, and he smokes POT! Reefer Madness just went up in flames!

Sadly, this photo was not received as joyfully by the media. Controversy plagues every bit of breaking news and Phelps' means of entertainment was no exception.

The Baltimore Sun interviewed Phelps, surely hoping for a public apology for his actions. He admitted he'd "clearly made a mistake" but didn't specify whether the mistake was the act of smoking, or the act of being photographed smoking (my theory is the latter).

Phelps continued, "I will say that with the mistakes that I've made in my life, I've learned from them. Every one of them. And I've become a better person. That's what I plan to do from here. It's definitely not what I wanted and it's clearly not what my mom wanted."

That was a nice shout-out to Mom, Mr. Phelps. Maybe it's just me, but I don't sense a trace of sincerity in his regret (I mean, other than embarrassing his mother).

It's funny - one minute the world sees Michael Phelps as a world-class Olympian, the best at what he does. The next, a photo leaks out of Phelps smoking some pot, and everyone is up in arms like it's *bad* or something.

I must remind all the haters out there that Mr. Phelps has 14 Olympic gold medals under his belt (more than any other Olympian in history). Obviously, marijuana hasn't gotten in the way of his goals.

The "Above the Influence" campaign might want to reconsider the accuracy of their commercials!

If pot aids an exceptionally motivated and talented individual in achieving a little peace and relaxation, why not?

Maybe law-makers would ease up if they took the hint.

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FROM THE MESSAGEBOARD

In Response To: Remembering Linda Wiggin:

I would like to take a moment to give ultimate gratitude to Laura Olson for her prestigious performance in this article. It is refreshing to see someone who enhances the experiences and lives of all people, including those who are not with us anymore. This is a dignified article that I am honored to have read this article and see that, even though Linda was only with us at Castleton for a short while, her presence and her contributions are still acknowledged.

-Ray

Responses to "The man behind the voice"

Great article on you! We share soo many similarities its not funny.. kinda scary actually! lol keep up all the great work, I know its stressful but it will pay off. Will ttyl somewhere (SPS maybe)

-Patrick

That was an awesome article about a terrific young man. We are proud of you Michael. You have accomplished many great things since arriving at Castlton. May your successes continue.

-Lori, Brian, Chris and Keith.

Convocation auds theme f change

r Wendy Young
stleton Spartan

Castleton welcomed the ring semester with words choing the newly elected esident Barack Obama's mpaign rhetoric.

Spring convocation kicked f on Jan. 22 in Castleton's usella Theater, touting the lected theme of "Yes We an! The Power of Change." udents filed into theater ats to take part in the annual troduction to the spring mester.

The ceremony opened with hearty welcome back from stleton President David olk, who then asked that the dience take a moment to cognize a pair of Castleton ofessors whom lost their ves in recent months.

"Let us pause for a brief oment of silence in memory Professor Linda Wiggin d Professor of Mathematics hris White," Wolk said.

Wolk followed with com- ents surrounding campus onstruction, adding that it as had quite an impact on the udents.

"The west side of our cam- us has been turned upside own," he said. "And all in he name of progress."

He asked that students and aff have patience and flex- ility when dealing with the onstruction.

For those worried about he economy, Wolk said that he school does not anticipate ayoffs this year or next year.

"We value people over ings," he said.

Wolk also built suspense efore announcing the cov- ed Employee of the Semes- r award, which ultimately ent to "queen of Castleton areer Development," Judith arruthers.

Following Wolk's ad- ress, Mykael Harrigan, Griff ewis and Sophie Ryan all ead speeches pertinent to the power of change theme."

Harrigan read, "I've been to he mountaintop," a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Lewis read "Remarks to he United Steel Workers" a peech by Richard Trumka, hile Ryan read, "Yes We an," a speech by Barack bama.

Students and faculty had iffering opinions of the cer- mony after it closed.

Freshman Bridget Dusha aid

"It was very inspiring," aid freshman Bridget Dusha.

Associate Academic Dean enny Harrigan agreed.

"We're at a particular mo- ent in our history when we an make connections with . . Martin Luther King and the nauguration," said Harrigan. "[It's] important to remember istory."

But naturally, not every- ne was spellbound by the eremony.

"It was ok," sophomore Arica Briggs said. "Last con- ocation was better."

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Students wait in line at the newly established "Hudenside."

New Fireside is a "cluster"

By Jessica Lawrenson
Castleton Spartan

Crossed arms, grudged faces and tapping feet is what you will see when you walk into Huden after 8:30 p.m.

Due to the construction of the Campus Center, Huden is the new home of the Fireside Café. But was this a pleasing move to students or not? While the cafe is now slightly closer to the south side of campus than it was, students have mixed feelings about it.

"It is a cluster f---," said Castleton student Mike Fitzherbert.

Tiela Roberts echoed a similar sentiment.

"The line is so f---in' long," Roberts said.

Other students acknowledged certain inconveniences with a slightly less abrasive choice of words.

"Fireside needs to work out another solution," senior Laura Olson said.

"You'll have a line anywhere," Amanda Malony said.

But unfortunately, these two comments ended up being the most positive from students asked for their opinions.

Most of these comments were made while waiting in the long line to pay for the products that students wanted to consume. With the new Fireside process, students must first wait in line to pay for what they would like, then put in their order at the grill or sandwich bar.

There is often a long line at south side entrance doors of Huden. It takes about a half-an-hour to just pay and get orders processed.

If the students select food that must be made made-to-order, then he or she must wait in a line again for their order number to be called, much like waiting in a deli line at the grocery store, frustrating and feels like forever.

Now this may not seem like a big deal to some, but college students like to eat when they are hungry, especially when it's as cold outside as it's been and students just crave a hot meal or snack.

While students were waiting in anger, they made suggestions on how Aramark, the company that runs all of Castleton's food services, could fix things in the new Fireside to make them more pleasurable.

The main suggestion involved hiring more people. More staff would mean food may be served more quickly to get students out of the clustered area.

Both Kenny McIlroy and Mike Fitzherbert suggested that both the north side and south side doors should be unlocked. More students would be willing to come in and get some grub if they did not have to hike around to the other side of the building in the cold. Tiela Roberts suggested that there should be another register open so the line is cut in half and two orders will be paid for and ordered at once.

Aramark representatives were not available to comment as of print time.

But for now it seems students must be patient in those long lines until another solution is given, or until construction is complete.

Building noise makes for early risers

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Constuction of the Campus Center and gym reach new heights.

By Melissa Pope
Castleton Spartan

One look around campus and it's beyond apparent that the residential side is flipped upside down.

Due to the Campus Center being remodeled, many of its different offices and facilities have been relocated to various buildings.

The construction has taken a toll on different students. Whether it is the sound of heavy machinery acting as student alarm clocks early in the morning, or being a few minutes late to work or class because of taking a new route, the construction affects everyone on campus.

Students around Castleton tend to agree on one thing: construction sucks.

"I think the construction is annoying, having to go around certain roads at certain times," CSC senior Carrie Olore said. "But in the long run, I think the updated Campus Center will be beneficial to the campus as it grows."

Castleton Dean of Students Greg Stone, who is the go-to man concerning construction, realizes that this is a big annoyance to everyone.

"I really do understand that it is inconvenient and frustrating," Stone said. "But I want students to look at the big picture and realize the outcome. It is going to be spectacular."

As well as Fireside being relocated to Huden Dining Hall, renamed by students as "Hudenside," Castleton Hall has become the home to a handful of other offices.

Residence Life, Student Life, and Career Development all have moved to Castleton 106. Haskell Hall has welcomed the Student Government and Student Activities to their building. The Mail Room is located in the basement of Adams Hall, the College Store occupies a trailer in the Jeffords Parking Lot, and the Soundings office has been moved to the library.

There are also some big downfalls of these moves.

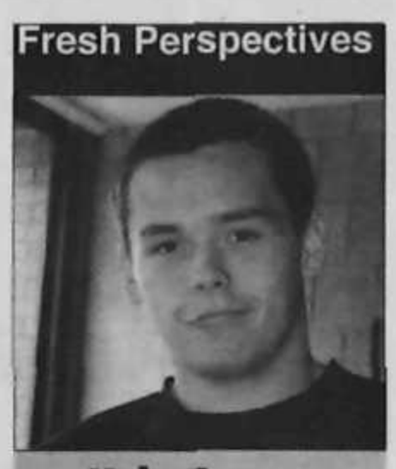
"There is a lot less student foot traffic that travels through these offices. I miss that," said Castleton Director of Career Development Judith Carruthers. "But it is a beautiful office."

Carruther's new office is equipped with a comfortable lounge chair with pillows to match, as well as many salt crystals all around her room. Making the dorm room mesh into an office was no challenge for Carruthers.

"Stop by and see us. Generally people do find us when they need to find us," Stone said. "If anyone has a complaint, just come complain to me."

Construction is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2009 and ready for the opening of the Fall 2009 semester.

Fresh Perspectives



Kyle Turner

So how about those book prices?

Does anyone feel like the school is cheating them with unfair book prices? I spent over $400 dollars on books last semester thinking no big deal, I should get at least half of the money back.

Well I was completely wrong!

Instead of getting $200 dollars back, I got $93 dollars! Now what reason could the school possibly have to give students such a small amount of money back other than to make a profit?

Hell, if a group of students made up their own little bookstore, then they could buy books back fairly and at the same time still make a profit.

Anyways, on a somewhat better note, the Super Bowl was at least exciting towards the end, granted that maybe the teams weren't who we expected to be there.

I don't know about you guys, but I look forward to the funny commercials more than anything and by far my favorites were both of the Doritos commercials. Some of the movie trailers were pretty good and also some unexpected, like the Transformers 2 trailer.

Hey, I know that some of you may not care, but TRANSFORMERS 2! What is there not to like about that? Two words, Megan Fox, and that is all I need to say about that movie, because quite frankly, in my opinion, Megan Fox is a fox. She is one of the big reasons to see Transformers 2.

We have been back at school for a couple weeks and we have a break already? I'm all for having weeklong breaks and whatnot, but isn't it a little bit too soon?

Most of us like going home, but after being there for a good long month and dealing with parents and other family members you just want to come back to good old CSC and be with your friends.

We are done with school in three months anyway and it really seems like this year is just flying by. Good luck to everyone with new classes and professors.

Oh, and have fun with the unfair book prices that screw us all over in the end.

READ THE SPARTAN ONLINE
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More to holiday than chocolates and kisses

By Wendy Young
Castleton Spartan

There is much mystery and rumors surrounding Valentines Day.

A reason for this is that the earliest observances of the day date back to the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, many records from the period have rarely survived the trip into present day.

Some notes on the origins of the holiday can be found in, "Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays" by Robert J. Myers.

"The most plausible theory for St. Valentine's Day traces its customs back to the Roman Lupercalia, a feast celebrated in February in honor of the pastoral god Lupercus during the Lupercalia," Myers writes.

"But in honor of the goddess Juno, the names of young women were put into a box," he continues. "Youths then drew the names and the boys and girls so matched would be considered partners for a year."

The day became known as St. Valentine's Day when the Christians later came into power.

It has been said that there were as many as eight saints carrying the name of Valentine, all with their feast day on Feb. 14. Two of the Valentine's were said to have been beheaded by Emperor Claudius II in 269 A.D.

Whatever the true origins of the day, the celebrations have changed. The day still seems to be mainly for couples. Gifts are exchanged, traditionally including cards, candy or flowers.

Regarding the Saint Valentines, questions remain as to which one of them decided to make the day into a lover's day.

According to www.history.com, one of the Valentines sent a love letter to a girl, signing it "From your Valentine." This gesture ultimately started the tradition of sending valentines cards to loved ones.

Valentine's Day, while seemingly fun and celebratory, does not interest everybody it seems.

Stores get into the Valentine's Day spirit. The holiday ranks second only to Christmas in terms of the number of cards purchased for others.

But even with the reminders of love in the air, some people simply don't buy into the holiday spirit.

"I don't like it," freshman Danielle Galbreath said. "It's not one of my favorite holidays."

Senior Sickness

Courtney Bonoyer

Jan. 20 was the beginning of my final semester of college.

After two schools and five years of college, I am ready to be done.

I have done the party scene and filled out more teacher evaluations than I care to think about. I also have the vacation closing down pat. I am ready for the next part of my life.

With that said, the next part of my life scares me. The topic of conversation for relatives, former teachers and so many other people, inevitably turns to what I want to do when I graduate and where I want to live.

That usually leads to a deer-in-the-headlights look on my part and a quick mumbled answer of "I have no idea."

Don't get me wrong, I have thought about it. I've been thinking about it for a while. Almost every day I debate whether I should stay in New England or head to the west coast or if I even want to stay in this country.

One thing is certain -- I don't want to stay in Vermont for long. There are so many options that it's hard to rule things out.

It's also absolutely terrifying me, thinking about moving out of my parents' house and living on my own. I've always lived in a small town and there is a good chance I will be moving to a city, so I'll be a little fish in a big pond.

I will be in a new state, far from everyone I know, starting a new job, with no money. When I think about those things, it makes me want to pull a Van Wilder and stay in college for another few years.

The current economy doesn't help either. All I keep hearing about is how more and more people are losing their jobs and their homes and how I should be grateful to have even the minimum wage paying job I've had since high school.

However, even though I am scared and overwhelmed, I'm excited.

The endless possibilities of where I want to live and work that give me the deer-in-the-headlights look also make me feel like I'm about to embark on a great adventure.

Until this time, I had to live in Vermont and follow my parents' rules. I also had to work at jobs where I constantly watched the clock, counting down the minutes until I could leave.

Now I can live anywhere I want and make my own rules and do a job that is fun and doesn't feel like work.

Living on my own will probably be hard and very scary at first, but hopefully worth it. For Christmas one of my friends bought me some apartment warming gifts for whenever I get an apartment. It made the whole thing seem much more real.

I think it will be an interesting experience when I start buying things for my new home whenever I get one.

Comm. department gets a home

By Terry Badman
Castleton Spartan

Get ready for even more construction.

The Castleton State College Communication Department is set to receive a massive makeover in the coming months, as construction of an expanded facility to house the department will begin in late spring.

The roughly 4,400 square-foot addition will connect to the north side of Leavenworth Hall and will be built on the space currently occupied by the faculty parking lot adjacent to the Wright House.

The $1.3 million project is funded by the Jeremy Brown Trust and the leftover cash from the Campus Center construction loan. Construction is expected to be completed sometime during the fall 2009 semester.

"We've been chipping away at Leavenworth all along," Castleton Dean of Administration Bill Allen said, adding that smaller construction projects, such as a redesign of the air-conditioning system, have taken place in recent years. "(But) it's never been a big project all in itself."

Features of the new addition include several new offices, a computer/student lounge, additional storage space, a long-overdue new television studio and control room.

More importantly, the addition, for the first time, brings together several of the campus media outlets, that have in the past been housed in different buildings.

TERRY BADMAN / CASTLETON SPARTAN

The Comm. addition will be built on the northside of Leavenworth Hall.

"After all these years, I still find it tenable that the rest of the communication department is in separate locations," Communication Department Chairperson and video professor Robert Gershon said.

Currently, the campus television studio is located in the Fine Arts Center, while the radio station and newspaper is located in Haskell and Leavenworth Halls respectively. The new addition will house both the campus newspaper and television studio.

"We're united at last," Gershon said. "But you can't get the best without giving something up."

Original plans for the communication department included a revamped setup in the new, improved, and currently under construction Campus Center. But due to a variety of technical and cost-related reasons, the college chose to build an addition to Leavenworth Hall instead.

The campus radio station will ultimately be relocated to the new Campus Center, on the opposite side of campus from Leavenworth's upcoming addition.

Even still, members of the department seem happy.

"I'm excited about just being closer to Bob (Gershon)," journalism professor and advisor to the campus newspaper David Blow said. "I think it would be neat to cross-pollinate print students and TV students."

Across campus, construction is underway on the remaining elements the of the Castleton Student Initiative Project's final phase, which include a newly designed Campus Center, a new athletic field, Spartan Stadium, and the remaining portions of Glenbrook Gymnasium.

And while the Leavenworth addition is considered a separate project from the rest of campus, its construction raises several questions amongst students and staff.

"I'm not sure where (faculty are) going to park during construction," Blow said. "I'm sure there will be some head aches - growing pains."

Robert Burge, Layout Editor of the campus newspaper and a frequent user of the paper's office in the northern side of Leavenworth, had other concerns.

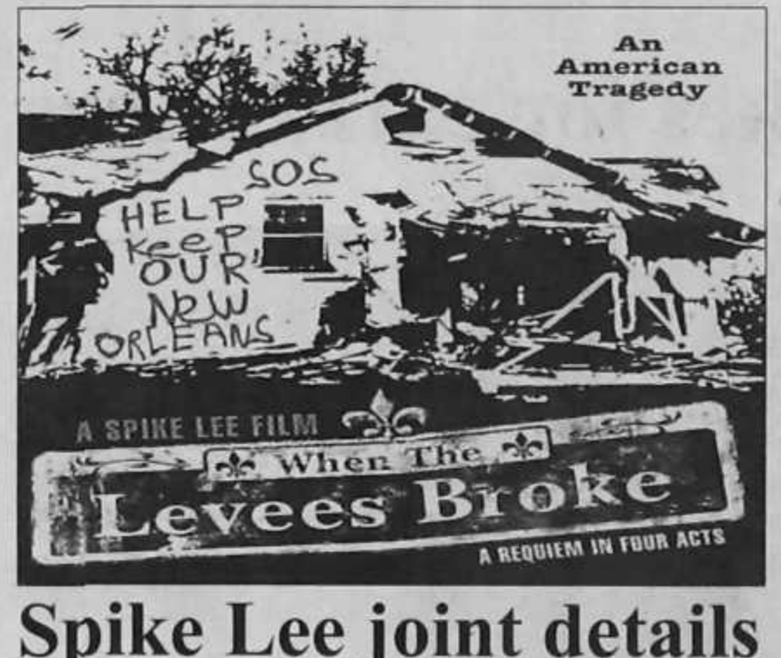
"The noise – during the countless hours that we're in here (designing the newspaper)," Burge said, adding that construction sounds may become overwhelming at times and disrupt students in Leavenworth classes.

While there is an outside chance that construction may begin before classes end in the spring semester, the college hopes to do the bulk of the work when it's more convenient for students and faculty.

"Most interior work will be done when it won't bother people, over the summer," Allen said. He also added that most summer courses will occupy classrooms on the opposite side of the construction, leaving them largely unaffected as well.

And while Castleton students may be growing weary of the seemingly endless construction kicking up dirt and blocking off walkways across campus, Allen assured student that it would all pay off in the end.

"I think it's important that a college tries to remain fresh," he said. "It's impressive that many buildings on campus are hundreds of years old – but they don't feel it."



Spike Lee joint details Katrina Disaster

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

During a typical Sunday afternoon soundings event, student chatter, giggles, and the ever-present glow of incoming text messages are prevalent in the Casella Theatre.

But Feb. 8 proved to be different, as students and Castleton community members watched film director Spike Lee's documentary, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," intently for four hours straight.

Hurricane Katrina, which swept through the Gulf Coast in 2005, led to the deaths of nearly 2,000 people and affected over 15 million people. Lee's film documents the different stages of this disaster in four different acts, each approximately an hour in length.

"It was really informational and touched on events that weren't publicized," freshman Logan Griffiths said. "I learned that the Levees certainly weren't capable of performing that job that they were made for."

The film attempted to inform viewers of the slow, inept and disorganized response of the emergency and recovery effort by both FEMA and the U.S. Government.

It also depicted how the media was forced to glamorize and mislead the general public.

The first act of the documentary reveals the actuality and seriousness of the destruction of the hurricane, including a comprehensive summary of the five following days. The lack of help victims received was exposed, as it took the Government three days to respond.

The next two acts were investigative, theorizing why the levees breached. Engineers claim that it is because the levees weren't in the ground far enough, while citizens claim to have heard explosions, rendering the incident intentional.

Finally, act four summarizes New Orleans's future. Will the thousands of homeless people ever receive the compensation they deserve? Will New Orleans ever be the vibrant, cultural city it once was?

Although four hours is a bit lengthy, there were many people in attendance, including a good portion of adults within the Castleton community.

J.C Kline, a Castleton resident who heard about the film from a newspaper ad, said that it was interesting because it allowed viewers to gain a greater depth about topics that the media generally avoids or alters to its liking.

Through images of corpses strewn about New Orleans and its emotionally captivating interviews, the film reveals many truths that have been heavily concealed from the majority of the public.

Castleton resources galore

By Shelby LaCroix
Castleton Spartan

Web sites have come a long way in the last decade. Looking back, even the web sites of five years ago appear ancient compared to those of present day. It's interactive web pages stocked full of links and information relevant to a target audience.

Castleton State College's official web site, www.Castleton.edu, is no exception in the media's push to make the web where it's at. Its pages are lined with a plethora of student resources one might not find easily elsewhere.

The first page alone offers over 50 links that lead to frequently requested information on schedules, statistics and current renovations.

For the currently enrolled Castleton student, one of the most useful links on the first page is "Current Students." This link leads directly to "Resources and Activities" which contains another 61 links. These links include this year's academic calendar, electronic versions of undergraduate catalogs, internship opportunities, soundings events, and many more.

In the header "News and Events," a link to the online version of Castleton's student newspaper, "The Spartan" can be found.

Do you have questions about Castleton's writing standards, or want to know more about counseling services being offered? The "Resources & Activities" page is stocked with links pertaining to a variety of questions a student might have about Castleton State College.

The web site however, caters to more than just the current Castleton student.

On the first page below the link for "Current Students" are links for "New Students", "Alumni," "Faculty & Staff," "Visitors," and "Job Seekers." The Castleton web sites tailors your on-line experience to fit individual needs.

Castleton's web resources don't end with the Castleton Website. Blackboard is just a click away. Recently updated with new features for the Castleton student, the school makes use of Blackboard's unique features.

Once you've logged in, you'll be sent to the Castleton portal. On the bottom left-hand side of the page there is a section entitled, "Castleton Today."

Within this box, you'll find three new features including "Daily Calendar," "Campus News and Events," and "Castleton Classifieds."

The "Castleton Classifieds" includes a carpool bulletin board, used book exchange, discussion board, for sale, and the currently available work-study positions. These links are great tools for students interested in taking advantage of Castleton's network.

"Castleton Today" allows you to peek at today's schedule, check out upcoming events, buy/sell and find carpools all in the same place - with just a click of the mouse.

The Castleton website and Blackboard make information easily accessible for students, visitors, and faculty members alike.

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Musicans bring "Bad Beer and Chips" to CSC

ghan Dufour
tleton Spartan

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Tim Blane and his band sing the night away at Pub Night.

Among the many hopeful gers and musicians dream- of making it big time, Tim ne is one that has the talent ush him to the top of the sic industry.

The singer straight out of ton, Mass., alongside his band members, James liams and James Casey, vides your ears with famil- sounds we regularly hear the radio.

The trio played a variety original music mixed with ers from John Legend, I Out Boy and even ynce, leaving people as tent with their versions as y are with the originals.

e band's original songs in- ded "Bad Beer and Chips," nnessee", "Me Being Me," I "Fan of Your Eyes."

Not only were the songs ing off a Dave Matthews ve, Blane also carries a ce that can be compared to tt White, Gavin DeGraw l Maroon 5's Adam Levine. ere was something for eryone to like.

The three Boston locals e you on a ride from fast eat songs to slow and othing notes, which were shed forward through the ophone and percussion. Williams' beat making was different from other artists we usually see. He has strings of bells wrapped around his ankles, the cajón, a Peruvian drum, was sitting underneath him and he tapped it for a strong sound, while small maracas were used when he wasn't tapping the drum. Watching him play all of these at one time was like watching an artist.

The beats from Williams mixing together with the saxophone sounds of Casey only complimented the soft voice and strumming of the acoustic guitar by Blane.

One quality that sets these three apart from other college performing bands was their ability to give an outstanding live performance in such a small venue. When many artists play live, you hear the cracking of a voice, an out-of-tune guitar and sounds not normally heard on their studio albums.

This is not the case with Blane's band. You get the feeling they have been doing this for years, as it seemed almost perfect. And with the applause and smiles on the audience's faces, everyone would rate this performance a thumbs up.

For a sneak peek of their songs, they can be found on iTunes and Facebook.

Comic crashes, burns, as jokes fall short of funny

eghan Dufour
Castleton Spartan

When you first hear medy show, you expect walk into a crowd-filled om with roaring laughter d one person standing at the crophone belting out their arious jokes.

But that wasn't the case for median Marianne Sierk, of s Angeles, Ca., in Huden's partan Room on Jan. 24.

The room was filled with pty seats rather than ople, while the noise of the evision was all that was heard.

Once the television came off and the microphone was turned on, not much else changed.

The room gained a few more bodies of people passing by getting their food, but the audience stayed at about fifteen people throughout the hour-long routine, with people coming in and leaving after only a few jokes.

With a performance that was more stories than actual jokes, the show seemed like it was struggling for continuous laughter that never came.

The one thing that gained her a chuckle or two was the interaction of certain audience members.

A man, who refers to himself as Moose, asked her to get a beer after the show.

They carried on conversation for several minutes, which brought in more giggles than the jokes she had tried to deliver herself.

Sierk, who mostly sticks to performing at colleges, has in the past opened for Bob Saget and has been compared to other comedians like Jim Gaffigan, Jake Johansson, and Dane Cook. But tonight, few laughs seem to strike deep in most of those in attendance.

The lack of laughter did not stop few audience members from giving her a good review.

"She was pretty funny and had a lot of energy," said Castleton junior Liz Garibay.

Sierk, who has performed for various crowd sizes, referred to this night as "the little crowd that could."

"I feel like things would've been different if it were on a weekday," said Crystal Tam, a CSC senior. "She was pretty funny so I wish there were more people there."

The lack of people may have been the reason for the absence of laughter and applause, but Sierk's jokes just didn't deliver in a way you hear most professional comedians.

Maybe he should stick to storytelling.

himizu's "Reincarnation" efinitive work of horror

ke Weins
stleton Spartan

Friday night I finally atched Takashi Shimizu's Reincarnation." I had already arted to watch it two other nes but I kept on falling leep halfway through!

So for the third time around ecided to fast forward rough the first half and pick where I would fall asleep. s definitely not a boring ovie the couch is just really mfortable.

"Reincarnation" follows a ung actress, Nagisa Sugi- a, who was cast to be in a ovie based on a true story out a man who killed his mily and all of the atten- nts of a hotel. Before they arted shooting the movie agisa Sugiura has visions ghosts of the victims and en while the movie is being ot sees the murders actually ppening.

What lead me to watch this ovie was that the same per- n that made "Ju-on" made is film. I knew if "Reincar- ation" was made by him then s bound to be a good movie, and a good movie it is. This is one of the few movies that actually scared me. I could have sworn I saw a figure in the dark corner of the kitchen.

If you have seen "Ju-on," then you could find some similarities between that movie and "Reincarnation." One theme that was similar was the ghost of a dead boy and girl appearing out of nowhere.

Another similarity is that the reason why there is a haunting is because there was a man, who out of rage or insanity, kills his family. I wouldn't necessarily call this a formula because the story structure is different but Takashi Shimizu knows what works and sticks with it.

What made "Reincarnation" interesting was that in the second half of the movie the main character Nagisa Sugiura started to have visions of the killings that took place in the hotel. When the killer slaughtered his family and the other hotel attendants he was filming it with a 8mm camera. The filmmakers shot these vision scenes probably not on 8mm, but it was made to look like it was, the scenes were grainy and a bit off color. Using this technique heightened the suspense and terror, especially when it cut to what the killer's camera was shooting. That made it much more personal and up front.

I realized while watching the Japanese movie, "Reincarnation" that if you want to make a good horror movie all you need to do is watch a one made by either Takashi Shimizu ("Ju-on"/"The Grudge") or Hideo Nakata ("Ringu"/"The Ring"). These two are masters of horror filmmaking and why Hollywood would want to remake their films makes sense (so they can profit) but that's not the kind of respect they deserve.

"The Grudge" and "The Ring" should have been screened here in America and not remade, because the originals are far superior and much more frightening than the dumbed-down Americanized versions.

Not very many horror movies scare me but "Reincarnation" did. There were a few scenes that were not as good as the rest but overall it is a truly terrifying film. The special effects are well done and the thrills build up to a shocking conclusion. Some of the characters were a bit confusing because I couldn't tell if it was the same person or two different people.

If you want to see how a horror movie should be made then watch "Reincarnation" ("Rinne"), "Ju-on" or "Ringu."

Don't watch the American remakes. They won't be worth your time.

Book Review

By Wendy Young
Spartan Staff

John Huffam is 14 years old. His sister is 17. Yet when their father manages to get $300 in debt, it is John that everyone looks to for solutions.

John begins, searching; finding out that it is not only debtor's prison he must fear. For someone is a traitor and is willing to sell plans to the enemy -- for $300.

Not sure who to trust, John does his best to figure out who is lying and who is not. And he has to do it soon.

"The Traitor's Gate" by the author Avi is a novel that is set in 1849—the year that Charles Dicken's classic "David Copperfield" came out.

That is significant only in the fact that Avi got the idea for "Traitor's Gate" from the life of Charles Dickens. Charles Dicken's father went to debtor's prison. A few characters are based on actual people, but there the similarities end. The novel is well worth the read.

*****

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Break it down

Melissa Pope

Pictures seem to be what makes or breaks you in Hollywood these days.

There are countless instances where celebs are photographed either nude, making out with someone they shouldn't be making out with, or breaking the law.

Even "wholesome" celebrities get taken down by this picture clause of their celebrity status. The biggest picture scandal of the moment is Michael Phelps' infamous bong photo.

One would think from all the people who tell you smoking is bad for your health that this would affect his athletic performance, but on the contrary, Phelps won not only one gold medal this past year, he won a number of medals.

So to all you naysayers, go on and tell everyone how much it affects your performance, but Michael Phelps is sitting back enjoying his fame and fortune.

Props to you Phelps!

Britney Spears is beyond well-known for her scandalous photos, from shaving her head to having her child on her lap in a car. The classiest picture of her is without a doubt the one where Spears hopped out of a car and flashed her naughty bits to the world.

Nothing like making a statement with your private parts. But, instead of hurting her fame, every female after started calling their vaginas, their "Britneys."

So, congrats Britney, another trademark phrase for you!

It makes me wonder about pictures and how much it really effects what people think of you. Everyone always says to be careful about what pictures get tagged of you on Facebook, and to make sure that you do some serious untagging if they are not "appropriate."

Question is though, what is inappropriate in one person's mindset might be completely fine in someone else's mind.

Growing up I was always told not to worry about what other people thought of you, but the older you get, the more it seems that it really does matter what everyone thinks of you. I feel like that stereotype needs to ripped off and thrown in the garbage.

Appearances matter to an extent, but they shouldn't be what makes or breaks a person. So, word of advice, go out, get crazy, and take some ridiculous pictures.

If anything, it's worth the controversy you will receive from them.

Keep it classy Castleton,
XoXo
Melissa

C.H.A.N.G.E in the works after assault

Continued from page 1...

the e-mailed alert were posted. In every residence hall a bright neon sign clings to the window that screams "Safety First; Don't Prop Open Doors."

Godlewski reiterates the sign's important message.

"We're asking that people don't prop open the doors," he said adamantly. "We make our rounds every night and by the time we come back they're usually propped open."

Public Safety usually patrols more toward the resident side of campus, but in efforts to keep our campus a safer place, more personnel have been added to the evening shifts, Godlewski said.

"I don't think I've ever seen the doors propped open," said LaPoint, "but that doesn't mean it doesn't happen."

Some residence halls even have neon magnets that cling to the widow frames of CA offices that say, "Stick with Safety" printed on them, along with the phone numbers to Castleton Police and Public Safety.

Sophomore Ashley Fillmore, a Community Advisor in Haskell Hall, said that the alleged incident didn't just affect her and her fellow CA's.

"It effected everyone in the building," Fillmore said. "You could just tell. Even the guys were freaked out, they kept checking on us."

Fillmore's comments would put Linda Olson, co-chair of Castleton's C.H.A.N.G.E. Initiative program at ease.

Olson had hoped that men would be taking a more active role in all this.

"They can help by reducing attitudes that contribute to sexual assault," Olson said. "With our One-in-Four program, men create awareness and make themselves allies."

This has been the first report of alleged sexual assault since last September, when two separate allegations of sexual assault occurred within weeks of each other.

Both reported victims didn't wish to involve the authorities at the time.

"In sexual assault cases you have to honor what the victim wants," Olson said. "It's frustrating at sometimes, but it's extremely important."

Olson's C.H.A.N.G.E. program, which stands for Creating, Honoring, Advocating, Nurturing Gender Equity, is striving to create a matrix of support for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence who come forward.

When asked about future precautions, Dean Stone mentioned considering "prop alarms" to sound if the doors are open for too long. Godlewski also confirmed that Physical Plant is working hard to finalize the "prop alarm" proposal for all the doors. Talk of security cameras in front of residence halls also surfaced.

But Stone posed the perfect question: "At what level of privacy intrusion are you willing to trade for safety?"

For more information on Castleton's C.H.A.N.G.E. Initiative go to www.castleton.edu/Change/Index.htm

If you or someone you know needs help, it is available:

- **The Wellness Center 468-1346**
- **Public Safety 468-1215**
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1(800)799-SAFE**
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline 1(800) 656-HOPE**

Student loans to take hit in next yea

Continued from page 1...

the government doesn't go broke," said O'Meara.

Being Smart with Student Loans

At CSC, the process of giving students loans is not taken lightly.

"We remind students that loans have to be repaid," said O'Meara.

And to drive home the point, students at CSC receive loan entrance counseling and exit counseling to embed their financial obligations into their minds.

Students can also be smart with the types of student loans they borrow to fund their college education.

Racz says that VSAC recommends students use the federal Perkins and Stafford loans first. Then if they still need money, parents can take out the federal Parent Plus loan, which goes in the parents' names. The last resort for students should be private loans.

"On private loans, there are no caps on interest rates. And there are no payment options. If students have difficulty repaying it affects their credit," said Racz.

In a CBS article, Bob Shireman, president of The Institute for College Access and Success, and Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of finaid.org, recommended that students fully exhaust all possibilities for receiving federal aid before turning to alternative or private loans. They stated that students sometimes don't fill out the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) because they think they won't be eligible for aid or because the application for alternative loans is easier.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, head of the Senate Education Committee, reported in the same article that an estimated 40 to 60 percent of students haven't taken full advantage of federal options for financing college.

"VSAC is so much better with customer service [then private loan lenders]," Allen said. "They have the ability to keep giving loans because they are so fiscally conservative and they have had good credit in the past. They are one of the few organizations to raise money off of bonds."

When Financial Trouble Hits

So what can you do when times get tough and the payments can't be made? Well, first off, don't ignore the problem, experts say.

"We strongly encourage people to call us as soon as they are experiencing trouble making payments," said Racz. "There are different payment structures available to them. There's a lot we can do to protect them. The ramifications of default are terrible."

Specifically, students parents can ask for d ments or forbearances student loans. As reporte the VSAC Web Site, a d ment is a specific perio time during which borro are approved to cease ma payments of the principa the loan.

Forbearance is a sl term, temporary suspen of payments or a reductio the payment amount. Hov er, forbearance is intende help borrowers if their ha financial difficulties and not qualify for a deferme

Defaulting on a loan curs when the borrower sistently fails to make ins ment payments for a speci period of time during repayment period. The sequences students face defaulting are serious.

"If students are smart, t can do things so their ne in default," said Allen. "dents never want to be in fault."

If they do default, a fe up to 24 percent can be ad to the loan balance, employ can be ordered to send par your paycheck to them, y credit rating drops and could end up in court.

Student Worries

CSC students have pressed many concerns ab the current economic cr and the effects it could h on their future. Senior Rob Vannoordt is one student w is nervous about life a CSC.

"I'm definitely worr about finding a job, es cially when all these peo who are getting laid off looking too," said Vannoor "I'm also worried that i don't find a job, making pa ments on my loans will hard when I don't have an come coming in."

Students who are returni to CSC next year may want plan out their finances bef the start of the semester.

Heidi Whitney, director Budgets and Financing, sa that if students have balanc on their accounts they will r be able to register for class There are payment arrang ments available to studen but until the balances are pa in full, students still cann register.

Whitney said there a some exceptions, consi ered on a case-by-case bas where the student will be lowed to register, like if student only owes "a coup hundred bucks." But if t student owes several hundr dollars or even thousands, t rule applies.

"Many students have tak en semesters off to work ar come up with the funds ne essary to attend," said Whi ney. "We don't want them t dig a deeper hole."

Taking life one gallop at a time

Continued from page 1...

Three years later, the question isn't who knows Powerhouse, but who doesn't?

A life of Studying

It's no secret that many students come to Castleton and get involved in the drinking and drugging party scene -- but not Powerhouse. He doesn't drink and doesn't smoke. Instead, he enjoys studying and reading.

When asked how many hours a day he spends studying, Powerhouse said, "Everyday is different. I'd say six to eight hours, maybe even more sometimes."

His study habits illustrate just how important learning is to this unique student. Jasmin Averbuck is a community advisor who lives in Ellis Hall and has known Powerhouse since she arrived last year.

"He's able to store a lot of information," she said with a smile. "He's really smart and he runs very fast."

Most say it's hard to not catch Powerhouse running around on campus.

"I enjoy running," said Powerhouse. "I um, well I like to run for exercise because sometimes I don't get myself to go to the gym. It gets me places faster ... it's become sort of a habit."

During an interview, other Ellis dorm mates jumped into the conversation joking about how when they see Powerhouse, they yell "there goes Powerhouse!"

One of his passions is working with the theater department. His boss, Technical Director Chad Voghell, had nothing but positive things to say about him.

"Nic has worked for me for the past two years and is a wonderful addition to our stage crew," Voghell said. "He is hard working, quick, always on time and a joy to work with."

He then reminisced about the first impression Powerhouse left on him and the crew.

"One show in particular we were working in Glenbrook and we needed something from the FAC. Nic said he could run and get it, but the show was beginning soon. He took off and returned with the item in seven minutes. The crew had timed him," Voghell said.

A friend of Powerhouse, Andrew Donovan, who was involved with the play "You Can't Take It With You," marveled at his friend's intelligence.

"He's intellectual and always knows what he's talking about," Donovan said

Ethan Garhartt, another friend who lives in Ellis, said he just enjoys being around him.

"Powerhouse is a locomotive. He's long lasting, efficient, and knows where he's going," said Garhartt.

"He's very energetic," added Donovan. "He's even up for break dancing at two in the morning."

Powerhouse took 19 credits last semester.

"The least amount of credits I've taken is 16," he said.

He is trying to get a double degree with two majors in history and American literature.

He has also been involved in several groups and organizations including the Literary Club, History of Politics club, 'Big Love' (a school play), intramural volleyball and basketball, Total Back Stage Access, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, Castleton's Honors program and Phi Alpha Beta History Honors Society.

He also finds the time to help tutor students in writing during what little spare time he has.

"At college, my hobbies are mostly hanging out with people. I sometimes enjoy politics, and looking up stuff on youtube.com. I like checking out things like Bush making a fool of himself," he said.

Above his computer in his room, Powerhouse has a calendar called "the out of office countdown." His face showed disgust as he started flipping through the months reading off quotes and mocking President Bush.

When asked prior to the election who he was voting for he said, "look at the pin on my fleece," pointing to an Obama pin.

He whispers, "It says on the ballot you can't influence anyone."

With all of his studying and involvement with the school, Powerhouse said he hopes one day to be a doctor of history.

"I'm definitely aiming for my doctorate," he said. "I have to get plenty of education before doing that."

Keep on Belize'n!

In April of last year year, Powerhouse and the rest of his Collapse of a Civilization class members, got on a plane and traveled to Belize. After a day of traveling, they landed in Belize City where they took tours and went to the zoo.

"It was very fun," he said. "Seeing the animals themselves was very interesting. My favorite part was at the beginning when I got to hold a snake. I was first to volunteer because I'm crazy like that."

Powerhouse stands in his room pointing to a poster his mother made about Belize right before he came back to school. On the poster were pictures of birds, mountains, ruins and also a picture of Powerhouse holding a boa constrictor.

Then, speaking with his hands, his excitement soars as he describes jumping off a 30-foot cliff.

"I jumped three times!" said Powerhouse. "I was afraid a little bit. It was definitely an adrenaline rush."

Myles Mickle, one of his roommates in Belize, said he enjoyed spending time with Powerhouse there.

"When you first meet him, you don't really know what to think," said Mickle. "He's the most competitive kid I know. He just looks at things in different ways, I can't really explain it."

Powerhouse and his class also went spelunking, a type of cave diving, and exploring different ruins.

"I had fun socially. It was amazing to see the ruins," he said. "Overall it was an awesome experience."

When asked what he thinks of his nickname, Powerhouse said, "I appreciate it. It's like a second name. It's not used as an insult, it's just my name."

Powerhouse's neighbor, Charles DePeyster, enters the dorm room.

"He may not look like a big kid, but he's got a lot of power and endurance," said Charles. "I wouldn't want to fight 'em."

Student: Castleton joining forces with UVM would be nice

Continued from page 1...

each student."

Douglas isn't rushing into anything just yet, though. As he went on to say in his address he has a task force that is gathering information and determining whether or not the merger is a good idea.

Then on Nov. 15 the task force will report back.

When asked what his thoughts were on a possible merger with UVM, Communications Director Ennis Duling said he'd want to know if it was going to benefit CSC.

"We have a long and proud tradition of providing good education at CSC and I'd want to make sure that the merger would improve our education but our distinctive traditions would remain," Duling said. "I remain open-minded, though."

For Castleton President David Wolk, the idea arose unexpectedly.

"The merger came as a surprise," Wolk said. "None of the VSC were told prior to the announcement in the address."

In order for the merger to happen it would have to pass the Vermont State Legislature and Wolk doesn't feel that is likely to happen right now, as there is no information about it and the legislature wants to see a plan.

One thing about the possible merger that concerns Wolk is that UVM is much more expensive than Castleton.

"It will have to be demonstrated that we'll retain the same high level of education at a lower cost than UVM," he said.

Like Duling, Wolk says that he is keeping an open mind to new ideas.

As for how CSC students feel about the merger, Courtney Nolan, who is a sophomore, says that she thinks the idea is really neat.

"Both schools are cool and it would be nice to join forces," she said.

Phil Barry said that he didn really care one way or a lot of the about the merger; however, h will be graduating this Decem ber, so it may not affect him.

Joel Lombard who is a ju nior and a community advisor offered his own two cents o the matter.

"UVM merging with th state schools will offer a lo more opportunities for the stat schools, but honestly I think i will bring down UVM's 'name so to speak," he said.

Lombard thinks that th question that should be asked lies elsewhere.

"What is UVM going to gai from us really?" he asked.

Campus Quips

Sarah Kenney

Question:
What was your favorite part winter break?

Brittany Baron

Homecooked meals, and alking the streets of Burling- n with my old friends.

Jared Carlson

Probably going to Canada. /e had a good adventure.

Meg Konowich

The downtime i got to have way from school with my amily.

Jeff Morse

My favorite park was rent- ng a ski lodge at stratton for a veekend.

Mike Mamunes

I worked a lot, so working with Wu-Tang at the Pickle- barrel.

Castleton campus hungry for action

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Erik Klug takes the lead for Babcock in the Hall Olympics by winning the hotdog and pudding eating contest.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Here comes Tiny- the new top dog in town.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Doug wheeler throwin down a 270 onto the down rail during the ASB rail jam.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Nick Korda races down the slope at Birdseye Mt.

Campus cats embrace students with loving paws

By Sarah Kenney
Castleton Spartan

Who said it's a dog's life?

Inside or outside, cats are everywhere. Some students hid them in the dorms. Others came to Castleton with their owners, while some were adopted. Either way, having a pet around seems to make students and staff happy.

A student, not into the cat craze even admits the felines have their charms.

"It's kind of hard not to like a kitten," says Page O'Neil. O'Neill stops by her friend's residence off campus frequently to visit with their kittens, Franklin Garcia Sisko, Henry and Floyd.

Will Johnson recalls an orange ball of affection that visited the parking lot between Castleton Hall and the Houses. Johnson believes that students love having the presence of a pet, something that many long for when they think of home.

Emma Deis, owner of Franklin and Henry, acquired one of her kittens from a breeder and the other came from a barn. One is known for being a garbage disposal for any left overs, with his favorite being peas.

Frank and Hank live with a black cat, Floyd, who encourages them to play with the faucet whenever it's turned on. Even kittens smuggled on campus, until they ultimately were discovered and sent home, cause a bit of a splash.

"Having the kittens was like having kids," said a cat owner, who wished to remain anonymous. "We had to make sure that they didn't run into the hallways or smell, but our suitemates loved them."

Mike Hyland and his roommates, as well as Charly Klaas and Meghan Konowich, saved their furry additions from homelessness. Bailey, Hyland's cat, was a stray living outside of Wheeler when his friends decided to start feeding her. Eventually when they moved into a house, they brought her along.

Klaas and Konowich were only planning on rescuing one kitten from the Rutland County Humane Society when they saw another, Maverick, and decided to take the RCHS's offer on two kittens for only $15 more than the price of one.

Friends of the felines are not limited to students either. Some of the Area Coordinators for Castleton have cats in their living quarters. Brittany Wooten's cat, Maggie, was adopted from a family that was moving and unable to bring her along. Maggie can often be seen hanging out in the window of Haskell Hall.

Other Area Coordinators also have cats as pets. Christie Wilkerson came as a packaged deal with Target, her prized pet.

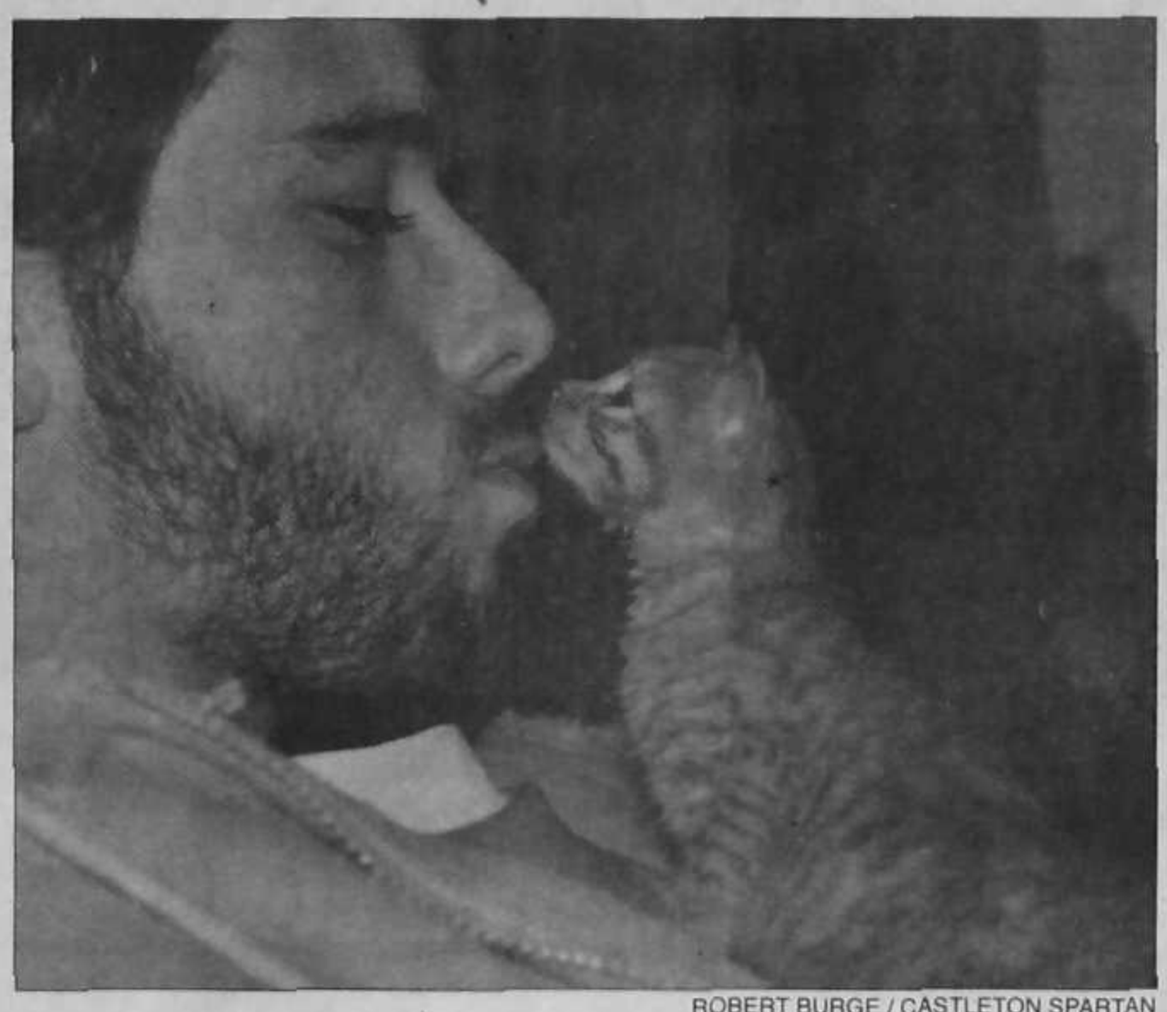
"(Target) regularly visits the academic support center and is spoiled rotten" Wilkerson said.

Charly Klaas, explains why cats are so lovable.

"We were gonna get a hamster or a ferret but we decided on kittens because they are so cute and they'll love us forever," Klaas said. Klaas and her roommate are the owners of Sadie and Maverick.

"I'm a dog person, but I would choose a cat because they give unconditional love," Douglas Philips, known also as D-Phresh, said. "They look forward to seeing you arrive when you come home".

The Rutland County Human Society is a non-profit organization that helps animals find homes all over the county. For more information, visit their website at, http://www.rchsvt.org/adoptions.html, or contact by phone at (802) – 483-6700.



ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Casanova Asland the Tiger (CAT for short) giving Doug Phillips some lovin'.

SOUNDING OFF

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Please contact a soundings instructor to share your thoughts

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 12th, 12:30-2:00 pm, Jeffords lecture Hall, Phi Eta Sigma Dr. Brendan Lalor: Life's Absurdity

Feb. 24th, 7:00 pm, FAC Casella Theater, Flamenco Viva Carlotto Santana
TICKETS REQUIRED.

March 4, Keystone Event: Henriette Mantel: "An Unreasonable Man"
7 p.m.
Glenbrook Gym

QUOTABLE LINES

Convocation

"The part of the program I found the most inspiring was the use or Barack Obama's "Yes We Can" speech. That particular speech is the one that defines our generation and where we're going. It also seems to be built on the lives of MLK and Lincoln, and ias almose a spiritual successor." –Thomas Anderson

The Art of Storytelling/Tell the Stories So That They May Know

"Not only has she the ability to tune herself to the culture of the story, but also for mesmerizing the people she is talking to." –Wyatt Aloisio

Women skiers perfect; men fall just short

John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College women's ski team finished its regular season with an undefeated record as they took first places in the slalom race on Saturday and the giant slalom race on Sunday.

The giant slalom event, which usually includes two runs, was cut short due to bad weather, but the lady Spartans were unfazed. The team dominated again, placing four girls in the top 10, and finishing with a time of 139.80. Boston University and Green Mountain took second and third place with times of 152.10 and 153.67.

Among 74 women racing, Spartan freshman Erica Luce was the top skier with a time of 46.02. Katie Martin followed in second place with a time of 46.46, Heather Patterson placed third with a 47.32 run, and Alexandra Nolan came in sixth, clocking in at 48.18

On the men's side, the Spartans fought hard and raced well, but came up short by one tenth of a second to Tufts University, which had a time of 137.44.

"I was very proud of the guys," Spartan coach Chris Eder said. "I told them they were just one tenth of a second away from an undefeated season."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Molly Rice carves past a gate in a recent race.

The Spartan men were led by Justin Garritt, who placed fourth overall out of 101 skiers with a time of 45.62. Bobby Jones grabbed the fifth spot with a 45.78 run, and David Loman broke into the top ten with an eighth place 46.04 run.

"Not to make excuses," Eder said, "but [having only one run] hurt us quite a bit, I think. In the second run, our guys always turn it on. Today we just didn't have a chance to do that."

Eder said Saturday was the big day win-wise because that was the day both the men and women achieved goal one: win the division. He added that while an undefeated season was great, winning the division was "more important."

In Saturday's races, Michelle Podnecky was the top skier for the lady Spartans with a first place time of 1:45.01, and Justin Schwartz won his sixth race of the season with a time of 1:36.49.

Eder said that one of the best parts about Saturday was the support the teams received from the college.

"Saturday's race was awesome because we had faculty from the college show up," he said. [Athletic Director] Deanna Tyson came by, and we had a lot of student fans when we clinched [the division]. That was great for the team to have support from the college."

Eder was pleased to announce that 14 of his skiers were selected for the All Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference Thompson Division Team.

For the women, the selections were Pattersón, Martin, Luce, Podnecky, Nolan, Amanda Griffin, Madalyn Kirbach, and Brenna Nolan.

For the men, selections were Schwartz, Jones, Charles Robbins, Greg Towel, Loman, and Garritt.

The skiers will hit the slopes again this weekend when they go to West Mountain in Glens Falls, NY, for a "tune up" in the Skidmore Invitational.

The Rooster

Steve McNulty

I'll go ahead and assume th
every sane-minded individu
tuned into the Super Bowl
Feb. 1. What in the hell wou
you be doing otherwise on
mundane Sunday? Beats n
Anyways, here are five thin
that every American shou
have learned on Super Sunda

**1. James Harrison d
served Defensive Player
the Year.** I cursed, spat, ev
threw small objects at my T
when I learned Harrison hi
won the award. My vote we
to Baltimore Ravens S Ed Ree
And this is saying somethin
I've never liked Ed Reed.

I mean, he did go to....gag.
Miami.

Nevertheless, Reed had i
incredible year. He racked u
nine interceptions in the regu
lar season and two more, re
turning one for a touchdown,
the Raven's first playoff gam
versus the Dolphins.

But who can deny Harriso
the honor now. His 100-yar
interception return for a touch
down at the end of the first ha
of the Super Bowl was the pla
of the game. It looked lik
Paul Bunyan had turned bal
and black and decided to spo
a football jersey.

I swear the TV was shak
ing with his every monstrou
stride (hindsight tells me it wa
the Budweiser). I'm not sur
I've ever seen a 250-pour
linebacker run that far, and yo
could tell it was certainly Har
rison's first go at it.

**2. Larry Fitzgerald is th
best wider receiver in foot
ball.** Hands down. No ques
tions asked. He's more nimbl
than Andre Johnson but bigge
and stronger than Randy Moss
If you throw the ball in the rela
tive vicinity of Fitz, he is goin
to come down with it.

Not to mention there isn't
a defender alive that, withou
the aid of a jet propulsion pack
can catch him in the open field
Hey marketing directors, look
ing for a great place to stic
an ad? Why don't you try the
back of Fitzgerald's helmet
After all, that's what everyone
in the world is looking at as he
scurries downfield.

**3. There is no Sports Il
lustrated cover curse.** This
has been on ongoing debate for
years. It's similar to the Mad
den curse. If you are seen on
the cover of SI, bad things will
happen. The NFL preview edi
tion gave us Tom Brady as the
cover shot, and he fell in Week
1. Well, SI tried to end the
Steelers, but to no avail.

Steelers players adorned
three of five SI covers that pre
ceded the Super Bowl. The
other two had pictures of one of
Michael Vick's old dogs (doing
well now) and the Philadelphia
Eagles (not cursed, just choke
artists of the highest degree).

I'm not sure why SI hates
Pennsylvania so much. Maybe
it's that goddamn groundhog
that keeps prolonging the cold,
heartless winter.

**4. Bruce Springsteen is
old.** Too old to be sliding
across the stage on his knees
and humping camera lenses.
Am I the only one who thought
he sounded like garbage?

**5. The best team won. If
you bet on the Cardinals,
shame on you.** The Steelers
are arguably the best athletic
franchise in ALL of sports.
Great players, great coaches,
and great fans all add up to
championships. Score another
one for the Terrible Towel.

In honor of our old sports
columnist, Matt Linden, I will
be sticking with the bold pre
diction of the week. Thanks
for passing the torch. **Bold
Prediction: UNC will thrash
Duke tonight and take con
trol of the ACC.**

Men's hockey team surges

By Chadwick Chioffi
Castleton Spartan

The Spartans beat the University of Southern Maine to finish their weekend sweep. Castleton also found its way into a tie for third place with Babson in the newly updated Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Men's East standings.

The weekend was capped off with a 2-0 victory over Southern Maine, a game where Spartan goaltender, Jeff Swanson, stood on his head saving all 19 shots he faced. Castleton's forwards seized their opportunities as Brandon Heck was credited for both of Castleton's points, assisting on a goal and scoring one goal of his own. Heck lifted the Spartans to a 1-0 lead when he grabbed his own rebound and beat the goalie on his second shot.

Heck ended the game with 2 points, leading all scorers. Steve Culbertson and Tyler Atkins were both credited with assists. The Spartan's recent surge seems like a push by its consistent defensive play which started the night before.

The Spartans fell behind early in their game against Salem State, trailing 1-0. Castleton started its rally when Stephen Miles scored his first career collegiate goal. Heck scored the eventual game winner a minute and a half after Miles' goal. Jay Seals stopped 31 shots for the Spartans, 13 of which came in the third period. Seals' play acted as the foundation of the defense, and everything else fell into place.

The Spartans' defensive play has started a confident campaign for the men's hockey team as it enters the final four games of the regular season.

Castleton has now jumped out to an 11-8-2 overall record, and 7-6-2 in the ECAC East. The Spartans will host St. Michael's College on Feb. 13 and top-ranked Norwich University the following day. The men's hockey team ends the season the following weekend traveling to Wesleyan and Trinity.

Welcome to the club

Teammates reach 1,000-point milestone

By Steve McNulty
Castleton Spartan

The plan was hatched in late 2005. Two girls, newly acquainted and fresh out of high school, would assist each other quite literally in achieving their goals. Three-and-a-half years and 100 basketball games later, the plan is now complete. And unlike the blueprints for Castleton's campus renovations, this one never changed.

Mary Nienow and Jessica Banks, both senior guards for the Spartan women's basketball team, have become the 10th and 11th players in CSC women's basketball history to net 1,000 points. Both girls came to CSC in the fall of 2005, Nienow from Middlebury and Banks from Milford, Conn.

The two hoopsters and roommates quickly became best friends off the court. This is when the talks began.

"We would always throw it out there as freshmen how cool it would be if we could assist each other on our 1,000 point baskets. We always wanted it to happen that way," Banks said.

The chemistry between these two players is undeniable. Banks runs the point guard position, pushing the ball up the court while looking for an open teammate. In Castleton's half-court offense, it is often Nienow, weaving in and out of screens, that is the recipient. It is a natural feeling one-two punch.

"We've been playing together for four seasons now," said Banks. "We trust each other on the court and our games just agree with each other."

On Jan. 27, Green Mountain College played host to Part I of the aging plan.

Early in the second half, with Castleton leading by six points, Banks spotted Nienow open just beyond the 3-point arc. Nienow canned the shot, and both girls knew immediately what had just happened - 1,000 points for Nienow off an assist from Banks.

Neither the assist nor the three-pointer should come as a surprise. Banks has led the NAC the last three seasons in assist-to-turnover ratio while Nienow currently ranks second in CSC history for three-point field goals made.

Head coach Tim Barrett sees Nienow's outside shooting as her greatest, but not only, ability.

"Over the years I've seen Mary mature and become able to score in other ways," said Barrett. "But her shot is the strength of her game."

Banks has also proven that, along with dishing out assists, she can rack up the points. Two games later, as Castleton hosted Maine-Farmington, Banks joined Nienow in the small 1,000 point scorer club. In an episode of reversed roles, Banks received a pass from Nienow and dropped a three-pointer.

Part II complete. Milestones achieved.

Barrett insists that, although this is a remarkable achievement for both girls, it's not just a personal milestone.

"This is a team milestone in a lot of ways. If you're not surrounded by a good core of players, this probably can't happen. And to have two girls score 1,000 on the same team says a lot about their teammates," he said.

With five regular season games remaining, Part III of the plan may lie just around the corner.

"Now we want to win the NAC tournament and get an automatic bid for the NCAA tournament," Banks said.

If this should happen, it will be the first trip to the NCAA tournament for any Spartans women's basketball team, and a fitting end to two spectacular careers.

VISIT CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM FOR WOMENS BASKETBALL UPDATE

Lady Spartans fall to Cadets 5-2

Mike DelDotto
Castleton Spartan

Castleton women's hockey hosted Norwich University, the B-Division leader in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference, on February 3rd. The Spartans fell 5-2 despite a great effort from sophomore goalie, Amanda Hoy, who had 20 saves.

Norwich drew first blood mid-way through the first period on a power play goal by Caitie Banfield. The Spartans answered with a power play goal of their own when sophomore forward Amy Costa scored her fifth goal of the season with assists from Sterling Nelson and Kaitlin Hayes. Amanda Wilks gave Norwich the lead once again with under three minutes to play in the period. They carried the lead into the first intermission.

The Spartans came out flying in the second period and scored the equalizer 2:05 in, taking advantage of a Sophie Leclerc penalty. It was Paige O'Neil's first goal of the season with assists from Hayes and Adrianna Riggio.

PHOTO BY ENNIS DULING

"They were extremely motivated for the game and ready to play," Castleton coach Bethany Torrice said.

"Everyone had the heart and a positive attitude, and when we all came together as a team it boosted our confidence," said Spartan sophomore defenseman Courtney Leavitt. "We definitely had enough conversations as a team to get us motivated to put everything we had into it."

The second period was all about neutral zone battles for both teams. The tide turned Norwich's way when Sarah Scardino slapped home her own rebound to put her team up 3-2. With under a minute left, Norwich tacked onto its lead when Julie Fortier danced around the defense and deaked Hoy to finish the play with yet another Norwich power play goal.

The third period saw four Castleton penalties to two Norwich penalties.

"I was not happy with the refs," said Torrice. "Norwich is a physical team and [nothing] was called on them."

Leavitt agreed, but didn't hold the referees responsible.

"Unfortunately, we can't control what the refs called; we can only control our game," Leavitt said.

Leclerc would add another power play goal for Norwich with less than ten minutes remaining in the contest.

"[Castleton is] definitely growing as a program," said Norwich forward Danielle DelDotto, "They work hard and never give you an easy game."

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

dnesday, March 4, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

or some, it's till on like onkey Kong

Chadwick Cioffi
tleton Spartan

he roar of the crowd echoes in the com- room. Bodies occupy both couches, set n stadium seating on top of a table, and rm chair. Two guys sit fixated on the 10- television in front of them. At the boil- point of the intensity one of them jumps is feet victoriously as the other scowls in elief.

ust another competitive match of Mor- Kombat between suitemates in Castleton l.

osh Manley, a Castleton State College ior, falls victim to freshman Kevin Mc- thy, a Castleton freshman.

McCarthy sits on a self-proclaimed Mor- Kombat throne on the top floor of Castle- Hall. He says the field of competition is n, and he welcomes competitors to play . Manley is just one of McCarthy's vic- s.

'Sam's probably my biggest competi- ," McCarthy said. "Because he can beat When I play other people it's a flawless tory."

Sam Esser, a Castleton sophomore, is an- er button masher in the building.

"I may play with an easy guy, but his guy heap," said Esser, adding how the atten- to the Nintendo has affected his school- rk. "I think I've played more Super Nin- do then I have done homework."

Although Manley may not be considered

Continued on page 6. . .

CSC reacts to party gone bad

By Jessica Lawrenson
Spartan Contributor

Castleton students received an e-mail before February break explaining what had occurred at an off campus party, where a handful of students were taken to the hospital after apparently using drugs.

The issue has died down since, but just what happened that night? And what do school officials think of the matter?

"College students are risk takers. They take a risk by putting everything off and going to college," said Dean of Students Gregory Stone.

Stone believes that students who do drugs, including alcohol, go through a process of how much of a risk they are going to take. The students determine how much they will be altered and whether they like it. If they don't, they choose not to do it again, he said.

In cases of drugs, the school's job is to identify whether the student using the drug was simply trying it out, or if they really do have a drug problem. After this, the school figures out what is a suitable punishment or program to help them.

"It is not about doing drugs, but knowing about them and knowing how they alter your state," Stone said.

Castleton Police Chief Bruce Sherwin said the schools in the Castleton school district do participate in a drug awareness program called D.A.R.E. This program is run by the police department and is taught by one of the department's sergeants. But they have little to do with an awareness program on the college campus.

Stone said any drug situation is handled like any other medical emergency. Public Safety will respond during any time of day, and if the incident is on campus, nurse Deb Choma from CSC's

Continued on page 6. . .

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Spartan reporter sits down with State Radio for an exclusive interview

By Shelby Lacroix
Castleton Spartan

A busy tour schedule is no excuse not to dig into some public service - at least not for State Radio.

Backed by their loyal and steady-growing fan base, State Radio is determined to spread the music, while affecting social awareness along the way.

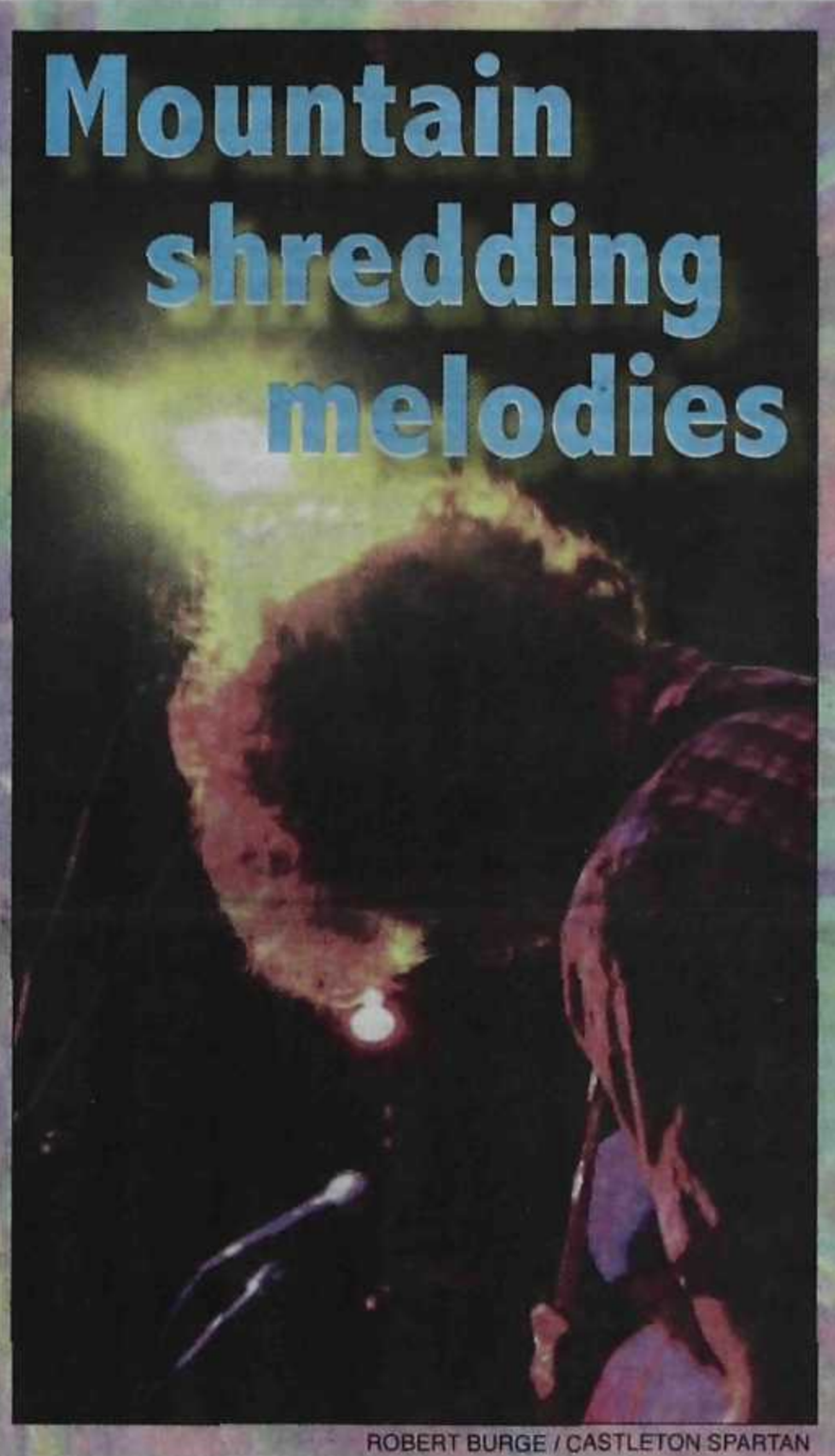
Front man Chad Stokes assumes the roles of guitarist, lead singer, and creative powerhouse behind the band's success. Formerly the vocalist of Dispatch, Stokes teamed up with bassist Chuck Fay and drummer Mike "Mad Dog" Najarian to form the alternative reggae-punk-rock band State Radio in 2002.

Since its start, State Radio has toured the U.S., U.K., Europe and Australia, released two albums and numerous EP's, and is currently working on a third album to be released in September of this year.

Nearing the end of an early '09 U.S. tour, the band played a show at Pickle Barrel Nightclub in Killington, Vt. on Feb. 19. Before the show, Stokes shared his thoughts on what it's like to play music for a living.

"We want it to be positive, you know? Encourage people to take care of one another," said Stokes as he described the vibe the band aimed to project to its fans.

Continued on page 5. . .



ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Instructor brings survival skills to CSC

CONTRIBUTED BY JOSH HARDT

sh Hardt chills outside of a cabin he built in the woods of Vermont.

By Batu MacEslin
Contributing Writer

They wait next to the row of parked cars beside Castleton's Glenbrook gym every Thursday evening. Around 5:30, a red Ford Ranger drives down the road and parks in an empty space between the cars. As the students realize their instructor has arrived, they gather around the truck to see what they will learn about the wilderness that evening.

Out of the truck comes Josh Hardt, a college-aged man with blonde hair, wearing a pair of dirty Carhart pants and a green flannel jacket that has a compass attached to it with a string.

As he gathers his wicker basket backpack he made from scratch, he glances at his students realizing that one is missing.

"I hope Adam doesn't show up 'cause I burned in him last week," says Hardt jokingly.

"You know what's more important than anything I can ever teach you?" asks Hardt, the instructor for the Primitive Survival Skills course at Castleton.

"There were ropes and tree houses all over the place."

Josh Hardt
CSC Primitive Survival Instructor

His students stare back at him clueless as to what to say.

"Forget about fire, your tools, and food," he says. "The most important thing of all is your brain and your drive to survive."

Hardt, 29, is an expert in northern environments. What makes him so unique, however, is not his knowledge of the woods alone, but his experiences in the wilderness.

Hardt grew up in the wilderness with his father, mother, and brother. His father was an ex-special forces soldier who was an expert in surviving in the wilderness. After serving in the military, he decided to settle down with his wife in Salisbury, Vt. There they bought a 40-acre plot of land and raised a family.

For the first six years of his life, Hardt and his family lived in a tee-pee. They lived there until his father built a small one-room cabin, where he spent the remainder of his childhood. School was also part of Hardt's life, although school seemed much more difficult compared to the wild.

"I was an outcast through-

Continued on page 6. . .

Correction

A quote from the last edition of the *Castleton Spartan* was incorrectly attributed to Castleton President David Wolk. The quote, detailing plans of a possible UVM/VSC merger, was actually said by Vermont Gov. James Douglas.

Woof! Woof!
Page 7

Index

Editorial	Page 2
News	Page 3 - 4
Arts & Entertainment	Page 5
Front & Back	Page 6
On Campus	Page 7
Sports	Page 8

I'd rather die a Spartan

At first, the concept of a possible merger between the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges seemed intriguing.

UVM at Castleton - it has a nice ring to it.

Students of Castleton and the other state institutions would, in theory, see the value of their college diplomas increase dramatically, as each would likely be stamped with UVM's prestigious seal of approval.

For a student like myself, one who didn't even graduate high school but was still given a chance to flourish in college at Castleton, it seemed too good to be true.

I could be a Catamount, too. By Christ, I could.

And yet, the more I thought about it, the more it became the most god-awful, vomit-inducing, horrifying and mangled travesty of an idea I could possibly fathom.

Here's why.

For starters, let's look at who's actually set to gain from the merger. At first glance, it may appear that the state colleges would reap the most rewards. After all, UVM is a high-ranking, nationally recognized institution of higher learning. People know the name.

But at its core, the merger is set out to do one thing: give UVM more money.

The university recently fell victim to the troubling economic times, falling about $11 million short on their budget. It closed the gap by firing several employees, closing numerous job openings, and even eliminated the school's varsity baseball and softball teams.

With more cutbacks to come, as well as increasing student enrollment to raise revenue – at an already over-populated school, no less – UVM is on the wrong side of the curve in the world of academia.

Ironically, amid financial trouble, UVM still had no issue booking high-cost speakers like Howard Dean and Jon Stewart to speak at its campus.

It was also revealed that UVM administrators were paid a combined $900,000 in bonuses over the last four years, with more than $260,000 of that being given during the last fiscal year.

Good to see they have their priorities straight.

And yet, despite a harsh economic climate and a name little-known outside of Vermont, Castleton is thriving.

Budget cuts? No way. Castleton's massive student initiative project is nearly complete, which will boast a new stadium, campus center, revamped gymnasium, and the birth of Spartan football.

Plans for revamping the Huden Dining Hall are also in the works, and the long-fabled communication department addition will be complete by next fall.

Letting go of workers? Not at Castleton. President David Wolk has no plans of cutting any of Castleton's faculty loose.

Students are enrolling at CSC by the boatload, yet the college faithfully, for now at least, sticks to a strict student body cap of 2,000, making sure each Castleton student receives V.I.P. treatment known "by their name and not a number."

Professors and faculty are more than advisors at Castleton, they're close friends. Some of which will remain in our lives for years to come.

UVM treats students like cattle – cram in as many as possible, feed them an assembly line education, and hope some profit squeezes out in the end.

All right. Maybe that's a stretch. But Castleton has everything going for it right now. Why change anything? How is that fair? We've done everything right in recent years. Why should we have to pay for the mistakes of others?

Granted, some of the VSC could benefit from such a merger. But others could be axed all together as a means to reroute more funds to UVM in Burlington.

Colleges are businesses just like any other. When times get tough, businesses sink, swim, or pull together and combine their efforts. And for some companies, a merger is the best option.

But it's not for Castleton. The school has come too far in recent years to risk blowing it all for the sake of acquiring a second-hand university title.

You want to be a Catamount? Fine. Go to UVM.

But I like my cozy Spartan jersey just fine, thanks.

BY JAMIS LOT

Making and learning from mistakes

It was a call I really didn't need that day.

Dave Wolk, president of Castleton State College, was on the other line asking me about the editing process of the Spartan – and with good reason.

A front page story on a proposal by Gov. Jim Douglas to merge the state schools with UVM had a quote from the governor incorrectly attributed to Wolk.

He was irritated, clearly.

I was mortified.

As it turns out, the reporter had the comment right and in the editing process of shuffling paragraphs, it got changed.

That stuff happens with newspapers. People in every profession make mistakes on a daily basis that are quietly taken care of in an office or via a telephone call. But when a newspaper makes one – lots of people see it and it's magnified.

What's unfortunate is that for this particular issue of The Spartan, the staff's effort was probably the best it has been in my tenure here.

Most stories were in by deadline. The designers had the pages laid out well before our 5 p.m. deadline to ship it to the printer – which never happens. And because of their efforts, my editing class, as an in-class exercise, actually went over the paper page by page and found tons of little mistakes that were corrected.

And they caught the incorrect reference to Wolk, which at the time only said "Wolk said" after the quote – without having first introduced him in the story.

One student, according to other students in class, even suggested that it sounded more like a Douglas comment than from Wolk. I apparently was thinking ahead to other lessons or something because it didn't register with me.

So we corrected the first reference issue, feeling good that we had caught a mistake.

Wolk, after the initial call, was gracious and understanding about the mistake. I, however, didn't feel much better about it.

I want all facts to be ac curate in The Spartan and i every newspaper. Journalis needs us to get it right. But r alistically, we're going to e occasionally. Just know tha the Spartan staff strives fo 100 percent accuracy.

Oh, and as an aside, on great thing about modern me dia is that the Web site ver sion of the story on castleton spartan.com – read by nearl 3,000 people on the day th paper comes out -- was cor rected immediately so they a read it with accurate attribu tion.

- David Blow
Journalism Professor &
Castleton Spartan Advisor.

Media lacks sensitivity for Buffalo plane crash

Over the past few weeks, television news stations have been broadcasting the same incident.

Networks have broadcast numerous images of flames pouring out of an aircraft, with the only part of the plane that had stayed intact being the tail of it, exposing the numbers of the plane on the back a large golden globe on its navy blue background.

The plane crash near Buffalo of flight 3407 on Feb. 12 has been all over the news ever since it happened.

It is understandable. It is a big issue, but I believe it should be handled differently.

This event affected many people and should be handled more sensitively. There are several family members and co workers who are becoming depressed by its overexposure on the news so much.

As a child of a flight attendant, I understand how annoying it is to see this on the news and in the papers frequently.

Showing the same footage over and over is doing nothing but hurting the people who were affected.

This act of news broadcasting is exactly why journalists have bad reputations. Journalists are not meant to hurt or depress their consumers, but merely to deliver a message of what has occurred.

News stations should show only the updates after the first few airings of the accident.

For the first few days, there was noth ing that had changed.

In the week after, there was talk o how it could have been the pilot's faul But other than that there haven't bee many updates.

If the news companies feel the nee to keep showing it on the news, the they should add different things, such a talking to the people who were affecte like family members and those who ha worked with the crew members who die on the plane.

Everything else that is being show over and over again is just making i more depressing for others.

Catch-22 vexes CAs in certain circumstances

I'm a third-year Community Advisor at Castleton and it's safe to say that I've seen my fair share of oddities and extreme circumstances.

Weapons pulled over video game disputes, bodily fluids in Dixie cups, and head wounds that look like something out of a horror movie have been a few memorable moments on the job.

Thankfully, these incidents tend to be few and far between rather than the run-of-the-mill violations, which tend to be, and always have been mostly, alcohol-related.

While of course these incidents often do reach a severity that cannot be overlooked (including issues of legality verses illegality), it would be a lie to say that the Residence Life staff doesn't know and expect that drinking is apart of college life.

I'm not saying that any of us condone illegal or excessive drinking, but from a preparation standpoint, that's the one thing that tends not to shock us.

Typically, college students who drink are all-too familiar with the possible negative side-effects of drinking: debilitating hangovers, freaky blackouts, and the "what exactly did I do last night?" question the next morning.

But sometimes, things take a scarier twist when the buzz kill of all buzz kills happens: suddenly, a fellow party-goer or friend, whether they be a first time drinker or not, stops responding.

Now, I understand that much to my and my co-workers' disappointment, most on-campus residents see us CA's as nothing but master-key-wielding menaces out to wreck their good time and exercise our insatiable need for power (rather than students who take the appropriate measures to keeping campus safe and livable).

Maybe it's because often times the bad outweighs the good, so the incident reports and the letters and the sanctions stand out above the programs and the friendly chats and the support, and in a way, I see why that's so.

But as a staff, our number one goal is to make it clear that in the event of an emergency, personal or otherwise, we want our residents to trust us with whatever is going on rather than fear that they are getting in trouble.

Leave it to the police department to undercut our efforts.

It recently came to my attention that it is often common practice for the police department to issue drinking tickets or alcohol diversion to underage students who call the police in the event of an alcohol-related medical emergency.

Now, I understand that there is once again a legality issue and a protocol to follow, but I also have gained clarity as to why so many people write off their dangerously intoxicated friends as "fine" as opposed to seeking help or why students agonize for quite some time before calling in help.

I think it's very safe to say that in any circumstance, a friend's health is worth any minor (or major) legal trouble regardless, but that can't always be rationalized, especially in a time of drunken panic. How are we supposed to improve the efficiency of students getting help from their friends when they're so afraid of the consequences that they opt for the less wise decision?

It's a catch-22 to say the least. I understand all sides of the issue as I've faced similar ones in the CA job, but I tend to lean more toward the side of the primary focus being personal health and safety.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I think the prospective fear of possibly losing a friend's life after a night of drinking gone wrong is enough to curb some behaviors on its own.

I guess I ask to any and all residents who may find themselves in a similar situation to understand that Public Safety and Residence Life aren't out to get you.

As much as I wish we could, we can't guarantee that you won't face any legal trouble for drinking illegally or excessively, but I hope that everyone realizes that a drinking ticket will leave a far less severe impact than a life lost.

Read The Spartan
WWW.CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM
ONLINE
another great idea from your pals at The Spartan!

Castleton Spartan
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Spartan Managing Editor Terry Badman, affected by the the season's sickness, endures a coughing fit.

Winter illness plagues Castleton

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

You've all heard it before: the omnious cough or the obnoxious sniffle present in your ear for en entire class.

The wheezing, sneezing, and hacking. These are all sounds one can relate to, especially students at Castleton State College.

It's prime time for those pesky bacteria to make their way into your mouths, noses and eyes. These bacteria can haunt you for days, or sometimes, even weeks.

Roommates exchange airborne germs in a fierce back and forth cycle. Friends share drinks, and those in relationships swap spit.

No matter how you may have gotten it, most of you have probably experienced some form of the "Castleton plague."

"This has been the worst year [for illnesses] that I've seen in almost five years," said Castleton Wellness Center Nurse Deb Choma.

With a scarf wrapped around her neck, worn not only for the cold but primarily for opening doors or itching her eyes and nose, and surrounded by as array of Clorox wipes, Choma said that she never gets sick..

"It's all about prevention. My hands are raw from washing them all the time, but I just don't get sick," said Choma knocking on wood.

The most common illness this year has been the flu. The symptoms of which include fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, extreme tiredness, cough, runny nose and stomach symptoms as well.

Other prevalent illnesses include strep throat or bronchitis.

In December the wellness center did offer a flu shot to students, but evidently not enough students took advantage of this opportunity.

Castleton freshman Lindsay Sedore was bedridden for over four days, and sick for nearly three weeks until she finally got better.

"It was a pain because I first went to the emergency room and they told me I had a sinus infection," Sedore said. "After I finished my medication I was still sick so I then went to the doctors office and it turned out I had the flu."

Currently the on-campus wellness center is unable to prescribe medication for students, only a diagnosis. Next year may prove to be different though.

"Castleton used to have several doctors on campus, but it is simply not possible for them to practice in this old house," Choma said.

Since Choma is friends with these practitioners, there is hopes that they will come back to Castleton next year, as the Wellness Center will by then be located in the new campus center.

"I am beside myself with excitement!" Choma exclaimed.

Until these new services are available though, "Nurse Deb" encourages to wash your hands, don't touch your eyes or nose, and be conscious of where you are sneezing.

"You must sneeze and cough into your shirt. Then it's only between you and you," Choma said.

Sneezing into your elbow just does not cut it anymore.

Castleton campus hops on iPhone bandwagon

By Karen Trudeau
Contributing Writer

Gentle tapping sounds resonate from the thin, sleek black and silver rectangle as Justin Bouvier's fingers dance across the gleaming touch screen. He turns the palm-sized device sideways, and types himself a note on a virtual keyboard.

Bouvier, a freshman at Castleton, is not in the middle of a test for space age technology. He was playing with his iPhone, a device that combines a state-of-the-art music player with the Internet, and oh yea, it also works as a phone.

"My iPhone lets me access my to-do list, Facebook, and email. I just like what it can do," Bouvier said.

According to the 2009 first quarter report from Apple Inc. the iPhone has been selling at an incredible rate. The company reported that they have sold 4,363,000 iPhones, an 88 percent increase in sales from the same quarter in 2008.

Alex Davis, also a freshman at Castleton State College, said that he is contemplating buying the iPhone for another reason.

"I really like the applications," Davis said. "And I understand my iPod way better than my cell phone, so I would like my phone to be both."

The "applications" mentioned by Davis are programs that iPhone owners can purchase and download from their phone or the iTunes store. The functions of these applications range from health and fitness workout planners to monopoly to "iBeer" which is a virtual beer that fills the screen and drains away as the user tips the phone sideways to simulate drinking from it.

The functions of the iPhone were summed up by sophomore Thomas Townsend-Pitt, who described the phone as having "everything you never needed."

A sales associate at the Rutland branch of AT&T who asked that his name not be used, said that he sees more people in the 35-40 age range buying the iphone than college students.

This could be because the phone comes at a hefty price. Bouvier's phone cost him $199, but he said that he feels it's worth the price. Also, there is a $30 monthly fee to receive the Internet, which many students, including Davis, would find financially strapping.

"It's one of our more expensive phones," the associate said "The people who want something for business usually go for the Blackberries, but the iPhone is more for entertainment. I guess the people with money just want something to play with."

Students who want to buy the iPhone will have to buy it online or head for the AT&T store in Rutland. It is also available on the Apple Web site.

Bake sale raises gender inequality awareness

By Meghan DuFour & Melissa Pope
Castleton Spartan

Standing in a line at the Equity Bake Sale, a boy and a girl both hand over a dollar bill to the bake sale attendant. When waiting for their change back, only the girl receives money in return. Scenarios similar to this have been repeated at Castleton State College for the past 14 years. But seeing as how only the women are getting their change back, one may ask, why does this food cost more for the men?

"The concept behind charging men more than women brings attention to the monetary inequalities in the workplace," said Brittany Wooten, CSC Area Coordinator. "People donate baked goods and members sell the items at a table in Jeffords. We charge men one dollar and women $0.75 based on the statistic that women make about $0.78 to every man's dollar."

The Women's History Committee is responsible for the bake sale that has become a school tradition. There has been some controversy in the past on the reasoning behind it and people seem to miss the fun and most of all the educational piece.

"We have held an Equity Bake Sale as part of Women's History Month since 1995, which also happened to be the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote," said Victoria Angis, CSC Assistant Dean for Campus Life.

The rights for women have been around for quite some time now, but that doesn't stop the school from trying to get us to share our opinions with each other about how far we've all come, and how much further we still have to go.

"The committee uses events like this one and a month of other events to start and continue the conversation around different topics such as gender equality," said Wooten.

Not only is the Equity Bake Sale a great way to show your feelings towards equality, but by attending you have the chance to help other people in need.

"The opportunity to donate the money to the Rutland Women's Shelter is a great opportunity to outreach as well," stated Wooten.

However, there has been some controvesy in the past few years regarding the price difference for the men and women. But with the real unfairness that occurs everyday in the working world, this Bake Sale is intended to be used as a fun way to educate people on the inequality people face day to day.

"There have been a few irate individuals over the years, but usually those people just don't buy anything. For the most part, the Equity Bake Sale has been well received," said Angis.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Fresh Perspectives

Maria Arnot

Besides the various sports teams that were forced to stay here during winter break, it is safe to say that the rest of us have just returned from yet another unnecessary week off.

I know I've said this before, but for me, this break was just another excuse to sit around, avoid my homework, Facebook stalk for far longer than necessary, and watch Real World marathons on my couch.

I am fully aware that you have also heard, and perhaps discussed amongst yourselves, how the construction on campus is a loud pain in the ass, Huden food is crappy, parking is awful, in addition to whatever other various aspect of college life we frequently talk about.

There are a few distinct things, though, that I have recently taken notice to which I don't believe I have yet to personally address.

The workload for the first three weeks of this semester seemed exceptionally more heavy than that of the first semester. Perhaps the teachers felt strained for time, knowing that another break was soon on the way, but I myself did more work these first three weeks of school than I did during the entire first semester.

I noticed a sharp decline in the number of people wandering the halls of Ellis during the week, and there was a substantial noise reduction as well. Perhaps this is a good sign though, we are here for an education after all.

On top of all of this work, freshman still have to attend soundings. Although Soundings is not always mentioned with enthusiasm, I must give the Soundings crew some credit: the Soundings events have been significantly better this semester, and the first three that I attended were even capable of holding my interest for longer than 20 minutes.

The Hot Eight Brass band seemed to be a favorite among freshman, as hoards of students swarmed the stage for the final thirty minutes of the performance as they danced to the lively New Orleans rhythm.

The African story teller too was engaging, allowing students to sing/clap to the verses of Charlotte Blake Alston. Even the four hour Spike Lee film was of interest to me. I did not have the pleasure of attending convocation, however, and there are still many events left.

And finally, I would like to bring up a problem most prevalent for students these days: money. The last fresh perspectives column discussed the expenses of textbooks. On top of the 400 dollars I spent on books, I have needed to pay for other various college necessities, and of course a vital spring break vacation to Myrtle Beach (although my parents would certainly disagree of its importance).

Upon going to the bank the other day (since our campus lacked an ATM machine) I noticed that my funds were dwindling, as are I assume, most other college students'. I thereafter was fortunate enough to land myself a job at the phone-a-thon center, luckily hearing of the job through a friend.

Since then I have been observing flyers for jobs in various locations on campus, so there are jobs out there if you are suffering similar circumstances. You just might need to go out and look.

The ATM machine is back by the way, and can now be found outside the public safety building.

Senior Sickness

Chuck Smith

Holy crap it's February. By the time this issue comes out it will be March.

I'm screwed.

This is the second semester of my senior year, and there's just about two months left in it.

Oh crap. I'm Screwed.

I've been here for four years. I still have to take those damn exams. I have to start looking at grad schools, searching for jobs, start thinking about finding my place in the world.

Who am I kidding. Finding my place in the world?!

I can't even find my place on campus. I walked into the wrong classroom last week, and actually sat down for five minutes before thinking these people aren't in my class what are they doing here?

That's not even funny.

There's still so much at Castleton for me to do, so much more that I don't want to leave behind, so much more to learn.

I mean, I'm a senior now. I've had a good run here.

Right?

I've wined and dined with some of the higher ups on campus (the fireside staff does count as higher-ups, thank you very much), gone to house parties, gotten written up in Ellis, gotten sick off Huden food and I can remember when Paul's had $5 pizzas. I've had the C-Rock experience.

So why do I feel like I could experience so much more?

Look… this campus isn't that big. You can yell at the old chapel and people will hear you at the other end of the campus. There can't be that much that I missed, right?

I've been on stage in the FAC, written in the paper, set up for graduation, helped teachers judge state-wide contests, taken safe-ride back to my house, and I even had Sex With Deb.

So why does it feel like if I was here for just one more year, just one more year, then I would really look back and say, "Man, those were some of the best years of my life."

Maybe I'm making up these irrational thoughts in my head, maybe it's just the nerves talking, maybe I'm just coming to face the classic "you don't know what you've got till it's gone" syndrome. Maybe I just don't want to have to look back at the best years.

Maybe I'm hoping that they're still ahead.

I think if you're going to hope for anything, then it's that. Right? CSC provided for me a great foundation, a learning experience unlike any other, and I think I can say that I'm ready to move on.

But damn it, I'm not sure if I want to.

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WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Huden dining hall (left), and Ellis hall (right) are next the list for renovation.

Wolk, students look ahead

Talk the talk, walk the walk, the talk with Wolk

By Wyatt Aloisio
Castleton Spartan

Castleton President David Wolk made his presence known at the Ellis Hall common room on Feb. 12 for a Q&A session in which any and every student was welcome to attend and put forth insight on matters of their choosing.

Sitting at the head of a rough circle of students, Community Advisors, and Resident Life Staff, Wolk took the one-on-one time as an opportunity to give insight on Castleton's future.

"What would you do if you were president for a day? For a week even?" Wolk asked at the start of the meeting. Using this as a cornerstone for the evening, an intimate bond was established in the room. By the nights end the group was no longer teacher-student discussion, but a family discussion.

"Most of the session was a two-way discussion where I probably learned more than the students," Wolk said after the sit-down.

As with many prior public appearances, Wolk reiterated that current construction does indeed have some time to go before the official opening of the new campus center and stadium, which is set to occur Memorial Day weekend next semester.

Despite some student quandaries about construction, the bulk of the session was in fact dominated by talk of what would be awaiting the college next upon the completion of the current projects.

Wolk revealed that renovations making Huden Dining Hall more accommodating and restaurant-like, as well as improvements to Ellis Hall and the construction of a new housing facility, are just some of the future projects waiting in the wings.

"We need new dorms," CA Kyle Kelly remarks strongly. "And Ellis Hall is long overdue for modernization."

The last official improvements were made to Ellis in 2006, adding blinds to replace the window curtains in the rooms.

One matter taken to heart by Wolk and the students alike was the issue of lighting on campus, particularly in areas under construction. Many Ellis residents expressed interest in seeing dangerous areas better illuminated and lighting added to the outdoor volleyball court, as well as the future skate park area for night time sports.

Jazmin Averbuck, also an Ellis Hall CA, remarked on the president's attitude on hearing the thoughts of the students.

"He really wanted to know our opinions on matters," she said. "It's nice to see that in contrast to other people where you don't feel like they're really taking in matters to consider."

Another surprise came in the form of interest to merge the nursing programs with that of the Wellness Center so that the two might better support each other. The prospect of training nursing students and having them as a part of managing the daily routines at the Center was something that all parties agreed could and should happen in the future.

Although the potential of such coming changes to Castleton may seem insignificant to the untrained onlooker, communication between the school's administrators and its students plays a vital role in maintaining the interests of everyone at CSC.

"It's a fairly ambitious plan the president has and I don't think students are seeing the full idea," said senior Heather Alle. "But once it's all done, I know the students will appreciate it more."

Running for well over an hour, the discussion has been held in high regards by both the students and the president, who saw it as a mutual learning experience.

"I loved it," Wolk said. "I came away from the meeting inspired by the care and compassion our students have for their college and our future together."

Few care if Phel smoked the ganj

By Nicole Parker
Contributing Writer

The photo of Olympian Michael Phelps smoking marijuana has gotten the attention of the entire world. Although the media has made this out to be a huge scandal in sport, some wonder, is it really that big of a deal?

The consensus around campus seems to be similar: so what?

"I think that he should have known better, but at the same time, he is 23 years old and missed out on much of his childhood. It doesn't bother me at all," said Castleton senior Jennifer Kleptz.

It's not only the students that feel this way either. Phil Lamy, a professor of sociology at Castleton, thought that the media could have handled the situation better.

"They missed a great opportunity to have a good discussion about the role of marijuana in our society," he said.

"I would have loved for Michael Phelps to have said 'yeah I smoke a little grass from time to time with my buddies and I don't think there is anything wrong with that,'" Lamy added. "But, of course, the media, along with the obligations and expectations of his sponsors, forced him to apologize."

But some people on campus have a slightly different opinion of the controversy.

"As an athlete, it is d… couraging to me becaus… respected Michael Phelp… to see him do somethin… smoke pot makes me fe… he has not completely d… cated himself to his spo… said Castleton sophomo… Ralph Celestin, who is … member of the men's ba… ball team.

And some, like Matt Soroka, the Legal and E… Issues in Sport professo… wonder what this will d… the future of swimming.

"Swimming is an ama… sport, so the hope is it pr… es citizens and develops … skills and his actions co… that approach," Soroka s…

But students seem to … the media and the public … general are fixating on th… wrong issue with Phelps.

"It is stupid that the m… is making a big deal abou… this. Many people don't … that he got a DUI when h… was 18. To me, that is m… worse," said Castleton ju… Brianna Behmke.

Although the Olympic … Committee tried to revok… gold medals, the picture … deemed not sufficient evi… dence in the case. He wa… pictured inhaling anythin… the medals stand and he i… considered by many to be … world's greatest Olympian…

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Student film improves action with improv

By Eric Kapitan
Spartan Contributor

A young man named Ken is talking on the phone with his girlfriend. He is in the process of breaking up with her. A cameraman is seen in the room documenting this unfortunate and uncomfortable conversation.

The cameraman moves in closer to Ken as he finally gets the courage to inform his girlfriend that the relationship is over. After a few moments of awkward silence, Ken hangs up the phone with his now ex-girlfriend.

No this is not drama from some new reality television show on MTV, this is a behind the scenes account of Mike Weins' film "All For You."And believe it or not, the entire scene was improvised.

"All for You" is a feature length film that is being shot and produced by Weins, a senior in the communication program. He is producing it as a part of his senior project.

A senior project is something Castleton seniors in the communication department can do as an option to fulfill a requirement for graduation. The project can consist of doing a video, a photography project or anything else related to the communication field.

Professor Robert Gershon, ,the academic advisor for the senior project, said he is very anxious to see the final product.

"I'm delighted anytime Mike walks in the door with any idea, because pretty much every time he has an idea it's a good one, and at the very least it's fun to talk about," Gershon said.

Weins explained that the story of "All For You" centers on a man meeting a homeless girl and forming a relationship with her.

The idea for the film came when Weins did an improvisation film over the summer. He liked how it came out and decided he wanted to do another one, only this time making it more of a serious drama.

"After experimenting with it, I realized that the actors can come up with better dialogue then I could ever write," Weins said laughing.

Most of the film has been shot with two cameras to get as much coverage as possible. Weins explained that it's easier doing it this way rather then doing multiple takes, which can take away from the natural tone Weins is trying to achieve.

During the production of the film, the improv aspect of dialogue and scenes has not only been a learning experience for the actors involved in the film, but for Weins as well.

"I'm going through this same journey where I don't know what's going to happen next," he explained with a smile.

Ken Holmes, one of the stars of "All For You", was very excited at the idea of being able to do improv.

"It's almost like method acting, like how some actors get into the roles they are playing. Improvising is like that because you're reall… the mind set of the movie,' … said happily talking about … experience on the film.

Holmes said that by d… improv, it makes it a lot ea… not to overact in the per… mance.

"What's funny about it … actually makes it easier to … in that it really feels like … are doing it." he said.

Holmes said he can't w… to see the film when it is … ished and is even more exci… to see what people's reactio… are.

"It's a totally different … perience when you're imp… vising. I hope when people … to it they will be like, "'T… was a really well written m… ie.'"

So far, Weins said he … pleased with the way the fi… is coming out and says th… he hopes to have producti… on the film complete later th… month

Once the film is complet… Weins plans on premieri… the film on campus and th… possibly showing it in R… land. Film festivals are also … consideration.

"This movie pretty mu… proves that you can make … feature length movie wi… practically no money," … said. "I spent almost $60 … a feature length movie. Th… tells you something."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE WIENS

A screencap from Mike Wiens' film "All for You".

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

tate Radio plays to a packed house at the Pickle Barrel in Killington.

State Radio encourages public service through music, activism

Continued from page 1. . .

"There are some pretty eavy messages in the music o it's cool when the fans pick up on the lyrics and start talking about stuff they wouldn't ave otherwise. It's good that conversation) continues," he aid.

Castleton students attending the show brought their wn perspectives.

"Chad is a rebel, he does verything his own way," aid fan and CSC student TJ Marsh.

"When I've seen them, it's lways been such a high energy show - everyone smashing nto each other. Almost like a metal show but the music is so much more chill," Marsh said.

More than music on the open road

Stokes explained that much of the inspiration for their music comes from the people they meet along the way.

"My brothers and I did a train trip this summer, where we jumped some freight trains for about three weeks across the country," Stokes said. "You meet the craziest people."

"I've always been attracted o sort of that, underworld," Stokes said. "Sometimes that seems more real than all of this. That stuff is pretty inspiring, especially in today's economy, too. There are people who are getting hit really hard."

"So many outreach programs - their funds were taken from them. People are just out on the streets more and more," he said.

PHOTO BY ROBERT BURGE

In the tour bus with Chad Stokes!

Within the first moments of speaking with Stokes, it's clear that he's a man with more than just a vision. He's become a role model for the positive change he hopes to see in the world.

"We do service projects on this tour, where we'll meet up with people during the mornings, and do different things - food banks, conservation things, all sorts of different activities where we meet fans and people in those cities," he said.

An outspoken activist for much of his life, Stokes credits much of his life's happiness to his experiences helping others.

"I think I got into volunteering when I started working with people with disabilities when I was 16 . . . it changed my life so much for the better, that we encourage others to check it out," Stokes said.

Between shows, State Radio stopped in New York City for the premiere of "How's Your News," a new MTV series Stokes co-created.

"It's a project that I started at a camp I started working at when I was 16, for adults with disabilities. Me and three friends started it, like twelve years ago," he said.

"It fell into the hands originally of Trey Parker and Matt Stone from South Park. And they have been our sort of, sugar daddies ever since," said Stokes smiling.

"So it's a news team of people with disabilities. We go to conventions and interview people and go across the country. We go to like, crash up derbies or alligator farms and just interview people - it's really fun," Stokes said smiling. "And, MTV picked it up last year, which is totally insane!"

Stokes continues, describing the excitement of being part of such a project.

"These past two Sundays (the TV show) has been on," he adds. "It's so exciting when Sundays come around. And the people with disabilities, our friends, the reporters they're just SO psyched. They're just really, really excited and really proud of it."

"It feels like - I know it's corny - but it feels like dreams can come true. It's wild that it's gotten to that level," Stokes said. "It sort of softens that barrier between people with disabilities and people who don't have disabilities. It just makes you feel like we're all on the same plane - we can laugh and joke around and it's really fun."

Music worth braving a blizzard for

And while Stokes and his many means of reaching out to others with disabilities keeps him revved up and busy, there is also another very important element helping to steer the wheel of his life – the music.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Chad Stokes belts out a tune.

"I think the music sort of chooses us. We just do what comes naturally . . . It's all just sort of whatever we've listened to over the years and how it filters through our own brains," he said.

CSC student Sean McIntyre made it to the show up in Killington for the show that night despite the stormy conditions.

"State Radio rocks. I like how they just jam out, I guess!" said McIntyre. "I drove over in blizzard and it was definitely worth it."

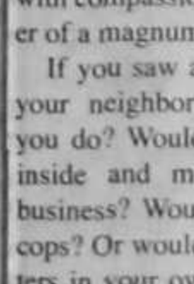
Their music was backed by a vibrant light show. Warm colors flooded the room while strobe lights pulsated during the heavier tracks. During one jam, Fay and Stokes jumped in the air simultaneously, while Mad Dog rocked out hard on the drums.

"It's gotta be how they mix the beats - reggae with mellow rock music. None of their songs sound the same.," Marsh said. "They switch it up and play with different tempos."

The sweaty fans on the dance-floor waved their hands in the air. The Pickelbarrel Nightclub was filled to the brim with concertgoers on every floor. The audience was extremely high-energy, begging loudly for an encore once the show had ended.

"I feel so lucky to be able to play music for a living, and to be able to travel around and meet great people. It's really neat," said Stokes. "It's great to be involved in the arts, in creative endeavors. It's such a privilege, I think."

Movie Review



Mike Weins
Castleton Spartan

I've seen a lot of Clint Eastwood movies and in most of them he plays the tough cop or some kind of rough around the edges hero. Then he started to direct movies but his films were the complete opposite of what we are used to when it comes to Clint Eastwood. His films had to do with compassion, not the power of a magnum handgun.

If you saw a gang hassling your neighbors what would you do? Would you just stay inside and mind your own business? Would you call the cops? Or would you take matters in your own hands? Walt Kowalski chooses option number 3. He deals with the gang not because his neighbors are in trouble but because they were on his lawn.

Gran Torino is a story about an angry elderly man who only likes American cars and Americans and he's of course the only American living in an Asian dominant neighborhood. He starts off being enemies with his next-door neighbors but when trouble arises with a local gang he starts to befriend them.

The story is a bit cliché but Clint Eastwood pulls it off as a director and an actor. The actions of the characters make sense and there never really were any moments of tackiness. There were a couple of moments when Eastwood's acting was a little over the top, such as when he was getting angry. But his interaction with the people he hated was amazing to watch. Even the actor who played Thao Vang Lor did a pretty good job even when he has had no acting experience before this movie.

Gran Torino is like a combination of Million Dollar Baby and Dirty Harry. There are the dramatic scenes of sympathy but there are also scenes of Clint Eastwood doing what he does best, making sure the perpetrator gets what they deserve. But this time he's not shooting everything that moves.

He plays an older man and someone who is more human. Eastwood's previous characters, such as Harry Callahan, can be seen as almost super human. Someone who could be getting shot at by ten people and not get hit and be able to shoot them all down without blinking. Not so much in Gran Torino.

If you want to go see a good old fashion Clint Eastwood movie, then don't go see Gran Torino. But if you want to see Eastwood going in the new direction he has been going in then this film is definitely worth it. When I went to see this film I originally was going to go see the Friday the 13th remake, but at the last minute changed my mind and I am very happy I did that. Not just because Gran Torino is a great movie but also, there were a truckload of teenyboppers packing themselves into the Friday the 13th theater.

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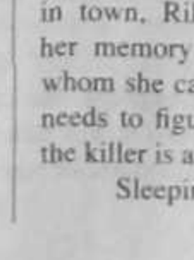
Book Review



Wendy Young
Castleton Spartan

Riley Crane is a FBI agent. Formerly in the military, her instincts are very good. In her unit, Riley is known for the special ability to blend into a situation, to become a new character. Then, one morning, Riley wakes up and she can't remember where she is, how she got there, or what character she's supposed to be. As murders begin to take place in town, Riley must regain her memory and figure out whom she can trust. And she needs to figure it out fast as the killer is aiming for her…

Sleeping With Fear by Kay Hooper is the second book in her Fear Trilogy. However, the book offers more than enough information to be a stand-alone novel. Hooper has created her own agency in the FBI, an agency called the Special Crimes Unit (SCU). What makes everyone in the SCU so special is that they all have some form of psychic powers.

This book is a great read for anyone who likes science fiction, a touch of romance, and plenty of action. The story keeps you guessing until the end, and when the bad guy appears, you just have to snap your fingers and go 'Oh! Now everything makes sense!'

Break it down

Melissa Pope

"They hating on me, they wanna diss this, kiss-kiss, 'cause she mine and so fine"

I don't know about anyone else, but this whole Chris Brown and Rihanna dispute came out of nowhere for me.

On Feb. 8 Brown was charged with assault on Rihanna and leaving her with visible injuries. The two had been seen together just days before looking happy and in love.

Appearances can be deceiving.

What isn't deceiving are the marks that were left on Rihanna's well-known face.

Two devil horn-shaped marks were left on this beauty's forehead, as well as her once luscious lips being swollen and split open. As if these injuries weren't enough, there were bruises on her cheeks and bite marks on her fingers and arms.

Brown later turned himself into the police. Maybe his conscience got the best of him.

This situation leaves people with a moral dilemma. People don't know whether to stand behind Brown, shun Brown, or protect Rihanna. Some radio stations are refusing to play Brown's music, yet others are having contests centered on this assault.

Question seems to be, do we as the audience of this entertainer feel bad for Brown and realize he is human, or do we shun him for doing such an awful thing?

In my opinion, these two need some serious time apart before they can even consider being together again. Brown needs to do some intense soul searching and revaluate his life. Rihanna needs to do the same.

It's not like Chris Brown is the first celebrity to be involved in a domestic violence dispute. Everyone knows about Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston and their so-called happy relationship.

Maybe it's something to do with the last name Brown.

When it comes to domestic dispute, most people say get out as fast as you can because it could always happened again. But there are the times where people make mistakes and can make a lifestyle change after it for the better. It's not always the case, but I think in rare occasions it can happen.

Maybe it's the silly girl in me hoping for the love to pull through, but big part of me hopes Rihanna and Chris Brown can work it out. As of right now, the two are still together so only time will tell.

Love is a crazy, awful, wonderful thing even in the world of celebrities.

Keep it classy Castleton,
XoXo,
Melissa

FRONT & BACK

Party drug sends students to hospita

Continued from page 1. . .

Wellness Center will join for medical attention. Then it is determined if additional outside medical help is needed, he said.

After everyone is safe the school and police conduct an investigation, and then consequences are considered.

The punishments for those students involved in the drug incident at the off campus party are confidential with the school, but the students are still attending Castleton. Those from off campus involved are now banned from the campus, and if seen on campus, authorities will be notified and they will be arrested, said Stone.

On the night of the incident, all of Castleton's CAs were promptly contacted. Laura Olson was with Greg Lamoy who was on duty and was contacted by public safety to act on the situation.

They were directed to go and check every room and bathroom to see if fellow students were responsive. Students were not thrilled about being woken up at 1:55 a.m.

"Some people were really cranky," said Olson, "but it had to be done because some people just put their friends to bed thinking it's all okay."

Olson explained that this night was a little more intense than usual, but she said the effort was needed.

She and Lamoy did have to go check every dorm room to the best of their ability. However, they were not allowed to key into the rooms without a reason.

If students did not answer the door they were left alone, but if it sounded as if they were hiding something in the room then they did have the right to go in and check on what was going on.

Olson said she is proud of the emergency response system CSC has with the CAs and public safety and thinks it is very efficient.

Castleton Director of Public Safety Bob Godlewski agrees. He said requiring students to sign in guests is affective and a means to know who is on campus and keep them all safe. This system came in handy the weekend of the incident.

Although authorities have not officially named the drug allegedly used at the party, several student sources indicated the drug was thought to have been ecstasy.

Those who sold it to the students at the off campus party were guests from another school. Since they had been signed in to the campus, the school had photos of those four people from off campus. These photos made it easier to identify the guests to the Castleton police.

Despite the recent incident, Godlewski said "we do not have a big drug issue." He said he gets updates daily on much worse problems on other college campuses.

But there are drugs at Castleton and when found, the matter is turned over to police, he said.

Godlewski feels that the night in question was handled very well. When Public Safety was alerted, they sent officers to go investigate and then they contacted the police and finished the investigation.

School officials said the two students taken to the hospital were somewhat responsive. The students who t the drugs thought that it ecstasy, but mentioned i interview with the police Godlewski heard that the had tried ecstasy before the reaction this time wa the same.

Godlewski said that it very common that over t counter drugs are sold an told to be ecstasy.

Since the drugs taken night of the party were m with alcohol it was even harder to tell what was us

Public safety is now o higher alert as a result of incident, Godlewski said.

Hardt: "I don't survive, I live"

Continued from page 1. . .

out school. It was just never really my thing," said Hardt, reflecting back to his youth. "I never thought it was cool, especially when you haven't showered in a couple days."

The other children always made fun of him and thought he was weird.

"The kids in school were just socialized in a different world than me," Hardt said. "I was socialized in the wilderness, which people instantly associate with being crazy."

As Hardt grew into a teenager, he began to argue with his parents about the way they lived. His parents responded by kicking him out. With nowhere to go or stay, Hardt sought refuge in the only thing he ever knew, the forest. For three years, he lived in a national forest, which Hardt claims as not the highlight of his life.

However, at the mere mention of his days in the forest, Hardt grows excited to tell the story.

"Oh man! It was crazy! I was totally living there illegally. I would have to hide from park rangers and cover up my tracks by re-walking them," he said with a grin.

His excitement doubled as he describes the "home" he built while out there.

"It was awesome, you shoulda' seen it. It was like Robin Hood's place," he said. "There were ropes and tree houses all over the place."

Eventually Hardt had a friend who offered him a bed and a warm house to stay in. His friend's mother allowed Hardt to stay as long as he agreed to enroll in a college when he got himself together.

In 1998, Hardt enrolled at Castleton, but he didn't stay to long. He then moved out to Idaho and finished college with a degree in outdoor recreation and education.

"It wasn't until college when people stopped treating me as an outcast. My buddies and I would go on hikes in the woods and I'd do what came naturally to me, but my friends thought I was the most awesome guy ever after that," said Hardt.

Once college was out of the way, Hardt decided to go on a three-week solo trip to Alaska. All he had with him was 34-Winchester rifle along with a box of ammunition. To Hardt, the lifestyle out in Alaska is the only real freedom left.

"To completely live away and free, you need to isolate yourself from society," he solemnly added after his mental trip back in time.

John Feenick, Hardt's boss and colleague, describes him as having a wealth of knowledge. He mentions how Hardt is great at encouraging students to want to learn about the environment.

Feenick also talked about the variety of classes Hardt has taught -- and will teach in the future. The classes range from fly-fishing to back-country skiing and snowboarding.

"I think he is a great addition to Castleton. He loves the wilderness, which makes him a wonderful instructor," Feenick said. "I love to go experience the wilderness, from bike rides to nature hikes. I just wish I could find the time to do all that while Josh is instructing me."

Many students on campus have never heard of Hardt, let alone heard that such classes were offered at Castleton. While some students were amazed and excited, others were disgusted or uninterested. Andrew Rissman, one of Hardt's students, tried to explain why the class is great.

"He's not one of those teachers that makes up stories to use as examples in class, like many professors like to do. Josh teaches you the stuff that's kept him alive his whole life. It's a class where everything you learn is useful, no matter what," Rissman said. "I think everyone should take his class. I mean where else can you learn how to skin animals and build shelters."

Other students didn't speak so kindly about the classes. Page O'Neil, who plays women's hockey, was astonished by the fact that part of the requirements for the class was to spend 24 hours in the woods alone.

"I understand why people would think it's cool, but personally, I would die before I voluntarily spent a night in the woods," O'Neil said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JOSH HARDT

Hardt and his family stand in front of the teepee he grew up in.

Hardt now lives with his wife of six years and his 2-year-old son, not far from where he grew up. When asked where he considers home, Hardt pauses and is silent for a few minutes. He takes his wool hat off and rubs his forehead.

"It's kind of hard to say," he says finally. "It's really important for me that I feel a close interaction with wherever I am.

"I will always constantly need a dose of the natural world, no matter what," he added, looking up at the nighttime sky.

As Hardt's students ready to embark on their solo hike into the woods, he looks at all of them and asks if they have questions. One student raises his hand.

"Will we survive?" asks the student, who then begins to laugh along with the rest of the class.

Hardt, also laughing, says not to worry, and gives his students one last piece of advice.

"I don't survive, I live," he says.

Gaming in a time machin

Continued from page 1. .

a top competitor in Mortal Kombat, when the crowd dies down he puts another game in. Sometimes it might be Super Mario World, and others he'll be playing Sunset Riders.

"Playing reminds me of the good old days," Manley said, laughing afterward. "When it was all about pressing buttons as fast as you can. It was like kids had super thumbs."

Manley says Sunset Riders is a suite favorite at the moment, but only because Mario has been overplayed.

"It has just gotten to the point where we see how fast we can beat it now," he said as he and "Spikey" Mike Baldino, a Castleton junior, get a quick game of Riders in.

Baldino and Manley say they have cracked out to the game lately, and continue to stare at the 10-inch sitting on top of a storage bin. Baldino has an interesting philosophy on video games.

He says it's about the excitement of going back to your childhood and beating games that seemed impossible when you were young.

Adding that the new games take time to get all the controls memorized, when the old games only have four buttons to push.

"I do like how you can stick handle in the new hockey games," he said defend the new technology. "Bu Zombies Ate My Neighb is the most impossible ga to beat. It can't be done"

No matter how big the crowd, noise will always accompany gaming. Whe they team up it's motivati chants, and when it's one one the trash talk pollutes the air.

At one time or another each one of the suite mate has found themselves play ing at the wee hours of the morning.

"There was one night I couldn't sleep, so I started to play for a little bit," sai Manley. "I had homeworl to get done, and I probabl should've been in bed. I cracked out for about five hours in the common room before I went to bed."

Other suite mates turn t Mario theme song down, press their phone against their shoulder and talk to their significant other whil battling Bowser. No matte what the excuse, the Super Nintendo is always there tempting any procrastinato or bored soul. Night after night when the crowd disperses, the Super Nintendo idly sings theme music wh it waits for the next person take the controller.

"That thing has made m procrastinator," Manley sa as he shut off the Nintendo

Men make nationals; women shortchanged

By John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

The Spartan men's ski team is headed to Winter Park Resort in Colorado to attend its second USCSA National Championship in a row as it tied for fourth place in the Eastern Regional races this past weekend.

The Spartans came into the Eastern Regional races with their confidence flying high. The women's team had finished the season undefeated, and the men's team had finished just one tenth of a second away from perfection.

Both the men and the women got off to fast starts on Saturday, placing third and sixth in the Slalom respectively. Justin Schwartz was the fastest Spartan male, locking up 10th place with a final time of 1:33.58 while Michelle Podnecky took the Spartan women's top honor, placing 23rd with a final time of 1:49.14.

On Sunday, the Spartan men skied a "conservative" race, according to coach Chris Eder.

"Our mentality for Sunday's giant slalom was to finish. We knew that we were in a good spot after the first day, as the top-five teams overall from the weekend's events advance to the USCSA National Championships," he said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS EDER

Bobby Jones carves a turn at Killington during a recent race.

Greg Towle took first place for the Spartans, checking in with an 18th place finish after two runs and a combined time of 2:17.45.

The women meanwhile found themselves skiing just as strongly as they had the day before, finishing in sixth place for the day and sixth place for the weekend. The lady Spartans were led by freshman Katie Martin, who finished 26th with a total two-run time of 2:27.51.

The lady Spartans, though, did not receive an invitation to attend the National Championship because of a mix up with the formula that determines how many slots are open to the eastern region.

According to Eder, the USCSA announced in the fall that its new formula, which is based on the number of teams in the region and the past performance of the teams in the National Championship, would award the East another slot in the National Championship, bringing the total amount of Eastern teams to six. In December, though, the USCSA Board of Directors decided to hold off using the new formula until next year, cutting the number of teams back down to five.

The only problem is none of the coaches were told about the decision to hold off on using the new formula until Saturday's Slalom event.

"All season long, we talked about how all they needed to do is finish sixth at Regionals and they are in (Nationals). That was our goal: Finish sixth or better—and they finished sixth on both days and overall," Eder said.

Podnecky echoed Eder's thoughts.

"Our whole team thought it was completely unfair to tell us on Saturday night," Podnecky said. "Especially since we had finished sixth that day and all of us were just trying to finish because we were told if we just finished we would be going to nationals. So, if we knew they were only taking five teams we would have skied harder. We were all really upset when we found out we weren't going."

Despite the odd, disappointing fate of the women's team, the men must now put the past behind them and focus on this week's races.

Eder says that his skiers will have to think about what is best for the team and not what is best for personal results. The skiers will also have to communicate with each other.

"Communication key. Course reports are v important," Eder said. "Wh our first racer crosses the f ish line, he will need to rac up to the start to let our n guy know how the course running and point out a tricky spots."

The skiers won't be the o ones radioing up reports. Ed says that either he or co-coa Dale Solotruck will be sendi up constant reports from t middle of the course, lookin to give the Spartans every of information possible.

Although The Spartans w compete against the best tean in the country, Eder feels th tiny team from Vermont has chance to do good things in t National Championship.

"I know that we can co out with a good result if thing go our way. Last year we fi ished eighth out of the top-2 teams in the country and did that by finishing. The were teams there that were be ter than us on paper, but at t end of the event, we finishe and they didn't."

Campus Quips

Melissa Pope

Question:
What were the last three ngs you listened to?

Kelsey Renee LaPoint

Hey Pretty – Poe
Faster – Rachael Yamagata
Heartless – Kanye West

Marcus Hass

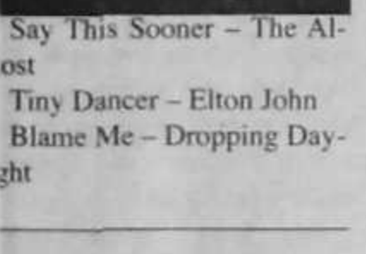
Pop Off – Lil Wayne
By The Way – Young Jeezy
Walking in Memphis- – uce Springsteen

Angelica Mazzola

How Do You Sleep – Jesse cCartney
Diva –Beyonce
Move if You Wanna – ims

Nate Long

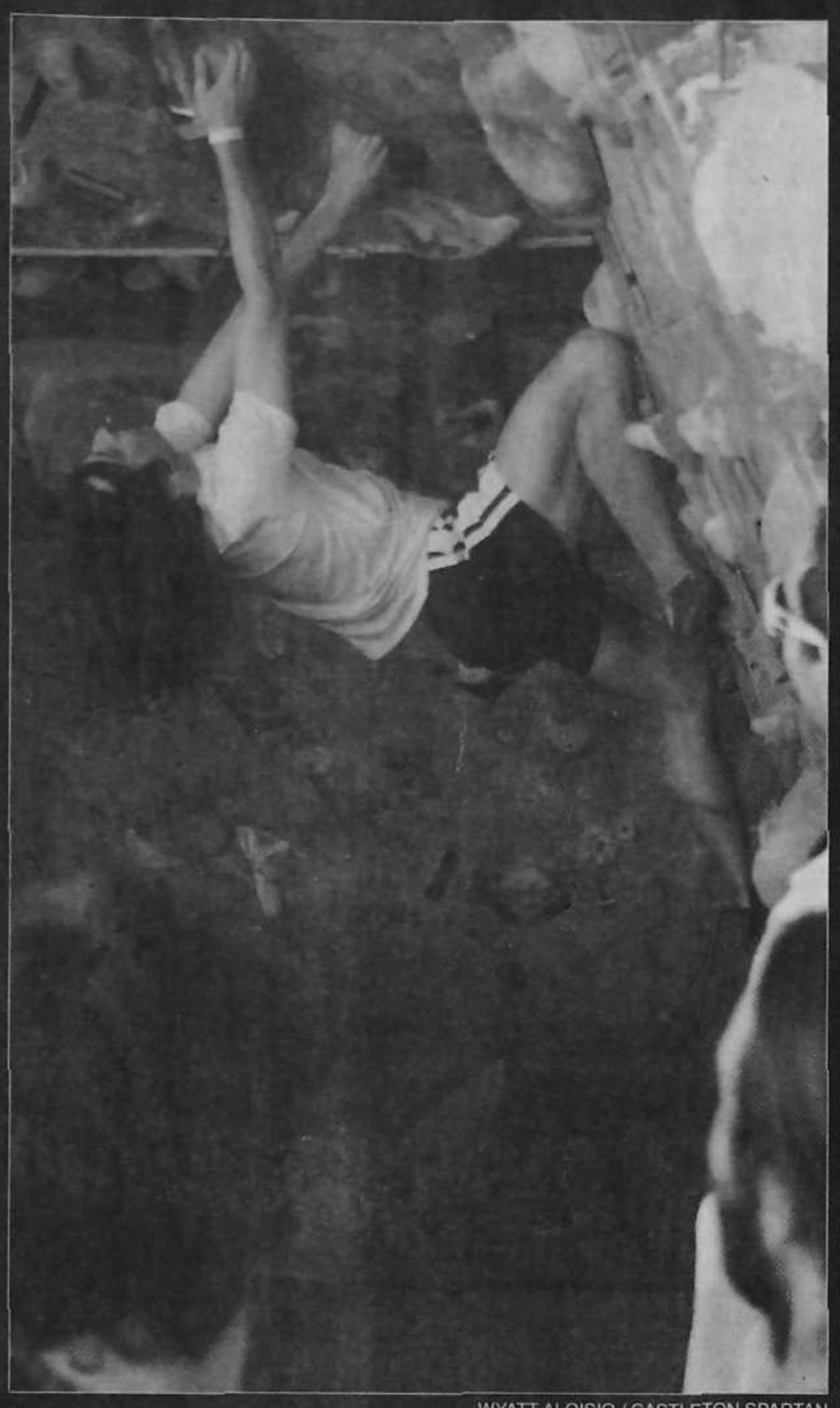
Say This Sooner – The Al- ost
Tiny Dancer – Elton John
Blame Me – Dropping Day- ght



Molly Hutchinson

I Love College – Asher oth
Drunken Lullabies – Flog- ing Molly
Freak Like Me – Sug- abes

Mother did it need to be so high?



WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Senior Nick Korda represents CSC this past saturday in a rock climbing competition at Hampshire Colleges outdoorfest. Amherst, M.A

Dialing for dollars

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

It's like a secret society.

In a dimly lit room in the Old Chapel, there are 16 sparsely decorated booths, each containing a phone, a student and little else. There are half eaten crackers and homemade cookies that serve as phoning fuel for the students who dial away seeking cash for the school from alums.

Despite the dismal responses of most, who insist time after time that they have just lost their job, or cite the condition of our current economy, the annual Castleton phone-a-thon is having little trouble raising money to reach its 2009 goal.

Otherwise known as the annual giving fund, the phone-a-thon takes place from Jan. 25 to March 19. It takes the form of two, three-week sessions, beginning after the December holiday and proceeding until March.

"We generally send out a letter prior to break informing alumni that, yes, it's that time of the year again." said Yvonne Manovill, associate director of Development and Alumni Relations. She explained that there are three ways that the money collected.

The first phase is entitled "direct holiday mail," which is followed by the direct phone calls, which brings in about half of all money raised.

The third is from uncommitted donors, who receive information in the mail and send money at a later time.

"It's not just about the money though. It is about making connections," Manovill said. "This opportunity is threefold. It gives students the opportunity to connect with alumni, parents, and retirees. Secondly, it gives the alumni a chance to reminisce, ask questions and advise students. And thirdly, it is a successful instrument for appealing to folks for funding for scholarship."

Despite having already raised half of the 2009 goal, a gloomy economy is forcing some former donors to pass this year, even on $5 donations.

The economy is also making for some tough phone calls for students.

"I was shocked to hear one response last week," freshman Jackie Lockwood stated. "The mother of the alumni answered the phone and basically told me how it was. 'There's no way in hell she will be interested right now.'Unfortunately she's only getting two nights of work a week."

"'I wish that I could help you but it's just not possible this year,'" she told the student.

But Manovill isn't worried.

"Sure, it has an effect on some folks, but we haven't seen a downturn in our numbers. The alumni are just excited to help in any way that they can," she said.

While student workers at the phone-a-thon will now struggle to raise the second half of the goal, they'll continue calling alums who have donated and others who never have. And they won't be surprised when some like Julie Maliere say no.

"We're not doing any donations until Obama can pull us out of debt," she said recently.

Playful pooches plentiful at Castleton

By Molly Fraher
Castleton Spartan

More and more four-legged students seem to be strutting their stuff around campus lately. Their manes glisten in the piercing sunlight, their ears are constantly perked, and their tails, well, they never stop wagging.

Seriously though, lately it seems like the dog population around campus has a head count high enough to fill an entire class roster, maybe even two.

"I like when I see students walking their dogs, it's cute," said senior Rachel Leard.

There's no doubt about it, dogs can be seen almost anywhere. Whether it's walking through campus, hanging their heads out car windows or in the buildings from time to time, you can't miss them.

Junior Jake Rick enjoys walking his 7-month-old golden retriever, Maverick, through campus on occasion.

"It's beneficial for his health, and it's nice for him to interact with all the people," Rick said. "He loves all the attention."

Students, however, are not the only ones who enjoy canine companionship.

Aquatics director and head field hockey and women's lacrosse coach Tammy Landon, became a new dog owner this past summer. Her 10-month-old yellow Labrador/golden retriever mix, Harley, was seen down on the field hockey field running alongside the team on many separate occasions last fall.

PHOTO BY MOLLY FRAHER

Jake Rick enjoys a day in the snow with his pup Maverick.

"I think it's a privilege to not only own a dog, but to bring your dog anywhere in public," said Landon.

It's quite clear that dogs have been walked around campus, and sometimes people don't need to actually see the physical dog to know it has been there.

Yes, gross, but true.

Some dog owners haven't been very considerate when it comes to cleaning up after their pets.

"Nobody likes to step in dog poop," Rick said, "and when someone does, it makes us owners look irresponsible."

Landon feels just as strong about the situation.

"I think it is the absolute responsibility of the owner (to clean up after their dog) in public places," she said. "Not picking up after your dog is very inconsiderate of the space we all share."

Professor Sanjukta Ghosh shares the same opinion as Landon.

"I would pick up after my dog if it was required – absolutely, without question."

Ghosh's well-known 10-year-old beagle mix, Shaaromayo, was actually trained to do her doggie business in the bushes, which is convenient.

"Trail walking is what she prefers," said Ghosh as she began to laugh.

Being a dog owner has both its ups and downs.

"It's a different experience," said sophomore John Shramek, who owns a 6-month-old golden retriever named Ace. "I expected it to be a lot harder; once the training's done we get to have more fun."

Having an abundance of time and energy is crucial to raising and taking care of a dog.

"Everyone needs to realize how much of a commitment a dog is," Landon said, "and owners have many responsibilities."

With spring on the horizon, dogs are sure to be in full bloom. The warm weather in the near future will draw dogs and owners alike outdoors. But for owners who don't exactly feel like braving the mosquitoes and deer flies that inhabit the woods, packing an extra plastic bag before heading out the door does the trick.

SOUNDING OFF

Have something to say about a Soundings event? Please contact a soundings instructor to share your thoughts

Event Countdown:
10 events to go

COMING EVENTS

Keynote: Henriette Mantel on Ralph Nader: "An Unreasonable Man"
Wed. March 4, Glenbrook Gym
STAY FOR DISCUSSION and GET CREDIT FOR TWO EVENTS!

Theatre Arts Presents: A Fiddler on the Roof
Wed.-Sun. March 18-22; 8 pm, Sun. @ 2 pm.

QUOTABLE LINES

When the Levees Broke: Katrina

"I never thought that people were still waiting on a place to live!" –Nicole Weeks

Hot 8 Jazz Band

"You can't find this music anywhere else. They were fun and entertaining, just like the city." --Brittany Lafirira

"This music relates to our lives by showing us not how to live life down and melancholy, but to live with a positive attitude and find the good in everything and thrive with that." --Charles A Plante

PHOTO BY JOHN JOHNSON

The woman's basketball team celebrates after their NAC championship win over Husson University.

We are the champions!

Mike DelDotto
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College women's basketball players are North Atlantic Conference champions. They upset the top seed and Final Four host, Husson University, 63-57. The Spartans earned a berth in the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

Mary Nienow was sensational, shooting 9-14 from the field and an astounding 8-10 from behind the arc, dropping in a career-high 27 points. Husson's NAC Rookie-of-the-Year, , Bree Hanscom, and NAC Player-of-the-Year, Shelby Bradford could only combine to match Nienow in points.

Nienow went on to win tourney Most Valuable Player, while teammate Jess Banks, who scored eight points, was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Spartans began the tournament at home facing old foe Johnson State College, but the game would not be as close as the previous two meetings between the teams. Castleton wasted no time taking it to Johnson 75-49. The Spartans also took on a sense of destiny during the game.

Leeanne Ketchen had 13 points, and Kristie Dunchus had 12 points in the winning effort.

The Spartans then traveled to Husson for the Friday semifinal to take on the number two seed, University of Maine-Farmington, in an overtime classic. It was Ketchen's turn to shine.

Ketchen had 12 points, shooting 3-11 from the field, 5-8 from the line, and one big 3-pointer late in the overtime period. After the three, Ketchen made a play to steal an inbounds attempt by Farmington. She kept the ball in by diving into the stands and knocking the ball back to Banks for the score.

The ball and score went back and forth all night but found their way to Castleton late in the game, and the team would solidify a 61-59 win and a trip to the North Atlantic Conference championship.

The Spartans will look to do some damage in the NCAA tournament as they continue with their sense of destiny, battling Bowdoin College in Castleton's first-ever NCAA appearance on March 6.

PHOTO BY JOHN JOHNSON

NAC championship MVP Mary Nienow cuts down the net.

Mens hockey bows out to Babson

Spartans lose heartbreaker in ECAC playoffs

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

The second-seeded Spartans road a seven game win streak going into their home ECAC East quarterfinal matchup against the seventh-seeded Babson Beavers. The Spartans, though, were defeated 4-1 by the Beavers, ending their season—a season different from any other.

For over twenty minutes, the game remained scoreless, even though the Spartans saw more opportunities Babson. Beaver goaltender, Andrew Peabody, stood on his head saving almost every shot the Spartans took. Castleton found itself knocking on Peabody's door a few times early on in the period. The Beavers' net was even taken off its mooring on one Spartan scoring chance.

Babson drew first blood on a shorthanded attempt. Castleton defender Jared Lavender was chasing down the puck inside his defensive zone. A Beavers penalty killer skated up to Lavender and somehow the puck was flipped past Spartan goalkeeper Jay Seals. Trailing 1-0 the Spartans were on a two-on-one rush, winding up and taking a hard slap shot. Peabody silenced the crowd with a quick glove save on a shot that looked like a sure thing for Castleton.

The third period began with a minute left to kill on a Castleton roughing penalty. As soon as the penalty box was opened and play was even, the Spartans were finally able to capitalize. After a Cody Ayers equalizing goal, the score sheet read all Babson. The Beavers scored on a slap shot from the point and again on a shot with a crowd in front of Seals. The empty netter came with 24 seconds left, but the Spartans' net was empty with two minutes remaining in the game.

"The bounces just went their way," said Ayers. "It was just one of those things where we couldn't get any momentum when we needed it."

Sophomore defenseman Omar Pacha shared Ayers' sentiments.

"It was really tough, it's probably more frustrating than sad," he said about the loss. "He [Peabody] played great and I don't want to take anything away from him, but we missed a few chances."

The loss caps a season that was full of character, and wins that weren't supposed to happen. During its seven game win streak, Castleton won five games by one goal.

Ayers said a lot of the Spartans' wins were from behind and this was attributed to the team's commitment to hustling out every play.

Never before has Castleton beaten Norwich University, Middlebury College and St. Michael's College in the same season. Middlebury led Castleton 1-0 before the Spartans came back. St. Mike's never had a chance; the game was over before it even started. The Spartans mauled the Purple Knights 8-3 in a game that turned out to be a scoring convention.

Norwich, like Middlebury, felt a bitter defeat after it went up 2-0 going into the third period. The Spartans outworked the Cadets and rallied three straight goals to win the game.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Steve Culbertson tries to even the score after falling behind 1-0.

"We were really pumped," Pacha said, speaking about the wins against in-state rivals this season. "But you got to realize we can play with these teams. Three years ago we weren't expected to beat Norwich or Middlebury. But I think now we're on the same page with them."

Pacha also said how close Castleton hockey is to the top of the ECAC, and how this season Castleton might have been the best in Vermont hockey, with wins over Norwich and Middlebury as his evidence of such a claim.

Castleton president Dave Wolk says the team is full of fine upstanding young men who mentor, give back to the community and impressively hold the highest GPA for all Castleton men's athletic teams.

"A lot of the seniors I have come to know," Wolk said prior to the Babson tournament loss. "I hoped they would have a successful season, and by my measures they have, regardless of what happens in the postseason."

Wolk also spoke about the Spartans being hard working and respectful, as well as the role modeling they provide for the young kids in southern Vermont.

Although the season has come to an end, it will be remembered as the first year Castleton became a contender. The fans' expectations for the school are higher with the recent success the team has found. With the senior guidance that molded the young talent of this year, Castleton looks to be an ECAC target next season.

The Chad

Chadwick Cioff

With the post season Castleton sports falling in with the Oscars, I thoug would be appropriate to credit where it is due and h out some awards.

The Best Villain cate was a tough field to ch from. The more I thought a Babson, the Beavers looke be the favorite. Coming our backyard and taking d the Spartans, how could t not take the cake for this o But with more careful con eration, the title of this ye best villain goes to the USC for excluding the women's team from nationals. For y formula, or selection, or wh ever the reason was, thanks here's your award.

Both ski teams are led by same coaches, Chris Eder Dale Solotruck. In my ey both teams belong in nation making this an easy decis for my Best Director awa Eder and Solotruck have bu a powerhouse program at C tleton, and it only looks to stronger. The men's ski team in nationals for the second c secutive year, and the wome got robbed of a national bid.

My Best Supporting Ac award goes to Steve Culbe son of the men's hockey tea Culbertson scored five go and assisted on seven goals the Spartans' last nine gam of the season. He anchor the Spartans' offense down t stretch and provided the tea the momentum needed to pe severe and win some clut games. How could I mentio Culbertson without handi out kudos to his teamma Brandon Heck?

Heck gets my Best Actor a Leading Role award, pro ing he is the dirtiest scorer skate for Castleton hockey th far. Heck is leaving Castlet with 121 points in his caree scoring 29 of those points th season. There was no doul about it; Heck and Culbertso almost gave me a seizure fro the number of times that go light went off, that's 57 time this season for those counting

The red light flashing behin the net still haunts me.

Best Musical Score goes t Castleton's pep band. The cov er of Outkast's "Hey Ya" wa the most creative rendition I'v ever heard. I've never heard a ensemble of instruments jam out to a hip-hop song that well and a quick paced jam at that.

Best Actress in a Leadin Role is definitely shared be tween Jessica Banks and Mar Nienow. Each of the women' basketball players reached a elite milestone, scoring 1,000 points. More impressively though, they assisted on each other's 1,000 points. And wait even better...each hit the mile-stone with a three-point shot. Thanks for the excitement, you can share the award because you have both proven to be the wheels that move the Spartans in the winning lane.

My Best Picture award wasn't even a contest. After watching Banks and Nienow continue to dominate in post-season, I give the award to the women's basketball team. The Spartans won the NAC championship, following the tone the women's field hockey team set for other women's athletics last fall. Not only is the hardware pretty, but now the team is on a national level. Good luck to the Spartans in the NCAA basketball tournament. Keep on winning!

Prediction: Castleton will have three titles at the end of spring - (baseball, men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse)

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JAN ROUSSE

SGA President Justin Garritt poses with local youth.

CSC elects new SGA

By Charles Smith
Castleton Spartan

More than 400 students turned out to vote in student elections held March 17-19, as the campus elected a new set of Student Government Association officials.

Sophomores Justin Garritt and Stephanie Kopko were elected to be president and executive vice president, respectively.

Each winner made it a point to say that they are going to change things for the better in the SGA. Garritt's list of proposed changes was long and he plans for a bright future for the SGA.

Motivation seemingly comes in large supply for the president-elect.

"Some efforts I hope to pursue (include) adding a community service committee that will give more resources to students . . . creating better ways to use our sustainability budget . . . creating a larger club budget so our clubs have more resources . . . helping link the Student Athlete Advisory Committee to the SGA . . . and so much more," Garritt said.

Kopko is excited to be in her new position and em-

Continued on page 6

Planting the seed

CSC mentoring program reaches out to area youth

y Laura Olson
astleton Spartan

Two students at the Castleton Elementary School stand the doorway, bouncing on eir heels impatiently as they ok out the window. They are ot waiting for a parent, a field p, or their favorite elective acher but instead for their astleton State College student mentor.

This experience, as told by sophomore Justin Garritt, is hat helped confirm his dedication to the mentoring program that has been nationally nowned for its growth and uccess.

"When you see kids that ou know that you really mean omething. It was a great feelg and I've been hooked nce," said Garritt.

Garritt is one of two head entors and all-around student oordinators for the program hat started four years ago with umble beginnings.

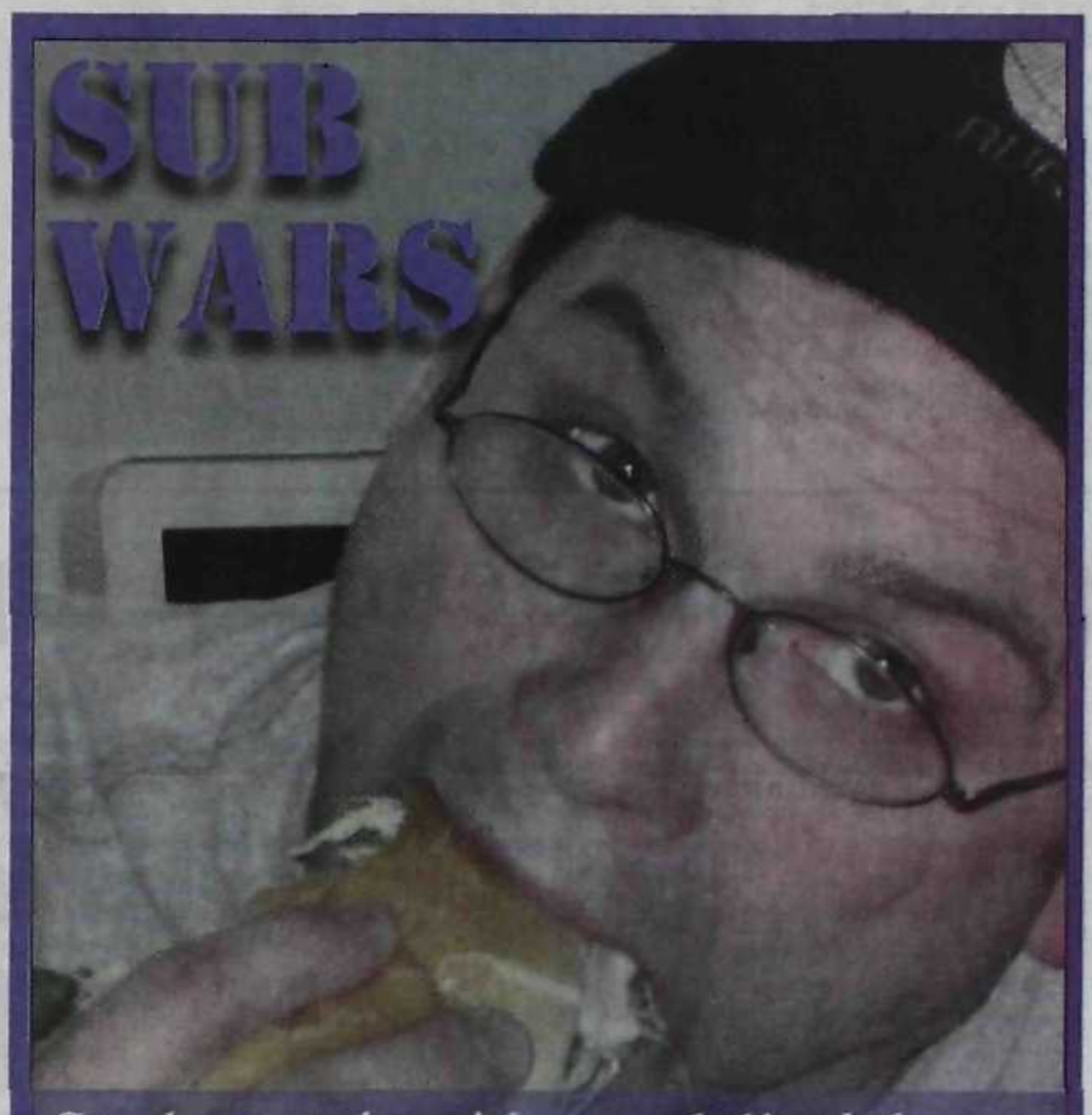
In 2005, Castleton staff embers Jan Rousse, Chrispin hite and Tammy Landon ere approached by nowumna Colleen Rupp about stablishing a relationship between the college and Castleton Elementary School. The program started with 10 CSC students meeting with once a week with those at the elementary school. This year there are 96 students from the college acting as mentors.

While the group of dedicated Castleton students meet and exceed the standard of being positive social role models in the lives of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders, the program's biggest goal is to get the students excited about the prospect of higher education.

"We want to plant the seed for college in them now so that they start working hard and seeing that hard work is going to pay off for later on," said Garritt.

Having been presented with the Vermont State College Governor's Award for community service last year and being recognized at the CFDS Conference this year in front of the whole country, it's no wonder that prospective students are being attracted to Castleton because of the program.

Continued on page 6 . . .



Students take sides as delis duke it for title of CSC campus favorite

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

It was a large grinder roll, and it had it all. A nice thin layer of mayonnaise, a 3-inch thick portion of cajun turkey, cheddar cheese with bacon melted in it, lettuce and onions. It could barely fit inside the mouth eating it.

This was no 55 footlong, but a sub sandwich from Castleton Corners Deli & Citgo. Tim Keller, the Deli & Citgo owner, won the title of best sub sandwich in the area in a 50 student survey. The Deli took home 26 out of the 50 votes, beating Gills and Subway combined.

"We realize you guys are not made of money. You're in school, you don't have a lot of money," said Keller. "We give

Continued on page 6 . . .

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Morgan Sasso struggles to gobble down a Citgo sub.

Job hunting may be easier than expected

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

Attention: the failing economy might not be that big of an obstacle for Castleton State College students.

In fact, some school officials think students may have nothing to worry about when it comes to finding a job after graduation because the nation's baby boomers are retiring.

"Look around us," said Career Development Director Judith Curruthers. "This place is run by boomers. In a few years they will all be retiring."

Carruthers, and Castleton's Director of the Robert T. Stafford Center for the Support and Study of the Community Crispin White, have developed a four-year program at Castleton that focuses on helping students not only discover their ideas and dreams, but to help them work toward reaching those dreams.

Carrruthers believes that there are three magic questions students should ask themselves in order to achieve their goals. What is your major? What do you love to do? What are you doing to make your goals

Continued on page 6 . . .

The curious history of Lake Bomoseen's hidden heart

y Steve McNulty
astleton Spartan

Year after year, Neshobe Island rests the middle of the Lake Bomoseen, a oming and lonely mass of land. There e few signs of life. A small dock jets ut from the south end accompanied by tiny white boat house. If you look hard ough, you can ake out the ape of a roofp through the ees. In the sumertime, fisherhen float around s edges, casting ait toward the horeline. In the inter, congregations of burly looking hen roam around the ice checking their p-ups, sometimes using the island as a hield from the piercing north wind. To ost, the island remains a place of mysery.

Geoffrey Walker, a junior at Castleton State College and avid ice fisherman has heard all of the myths.

"I've been told so many different stories about that island," he said. "Somebody told me once that the slate quarry owners kept Portuguese immigrants there so they would be isolated. And then a week later someone tells me that Jeff Gordon owns the damn thing. I'm not sure what to believe."

> MARX WOULD STRIP NAKED, CAKE HIS BODY IN MUD, THROW ON A RED WIG, THEN RUN OUT OF THE WOODS SCREAMING AND CHANTING.

Neither of those stories is factual, but Walker is just one of many people who have heard varying accounts. But the island does have quite a magnificent history. In fact, the now quiet and serene eight-acre island was once a hot-spot for the rich and famous.

Part of Neshobe Island was purchased in 1924 by Alexander Woollcott, an author and literary and drama critic for the New York Times. Citing a need for a quiet place to finish his latest book, he and some of his closest friends formed the Neshobe Island Club to which they would pay yearly dues. Over the next 20 years, the island became favorite vacationing place for a mass of literary masterminds and Hollywood egos alike as Woollcott eventually gained full ownership.

One frequent, and most well-known, visitor to the island was Woollcott's close friend, Harpo Marx. He and his brother, Groucho, achieved fame in the movie industry throughout the 1920's and 30's. Marx was incredibly shy in real life, rarely speaking, even in his movie roles. However, Castleton alum Angela Stebbins quoted Marx in the book "Beautiful Lake" Bomoseen as saying about the island, "The thing we cherished most about the island, along with its natural beauty, was its isolation. Whenever we stepped onto Neshobe, we left Western Civilization and entered our own primitive society."

Marx loved the isolation that Neshobe

Continued on page 6 . . .

STEVE MCNULTY / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Neshobe Island glows under a Vermont sunset.

Editorial ▷ Page 2 • News ▷ Page 3-4 • A&E ▷ Page 5 • Front & Back ▷ Page 6 • Campus ▷ Page 7 • Sports ▷ Page 8

Did cops overreact?

I will never complain about the job Public Safety is doing because they follow a certain protocol. In all my experiences with the officers on campus, I have had no issue, but as an on looker I saw something that frustrated me.

There he was, a classmate of mine I'll refer to as Jim, trying to explain himself to the Castleton Police and Public Safety. He apparently jumped out his suite window. This would be a problem to me if he was doing it from the fourth floor of Babcock, but seeing as how it was the first floor of his building, I think a simple fine would have sufficed.

Public Safety approached Jim and started asking him what he was doing. There had been a heated incident about two hours before this, so Public Safety assumed Jim was connected somehow. He lived there, continuing to make this point to Public Safety.

Castleton Police arrived a few minutes later. The officer asked him, "why are you being stupid?" A calm, but quickly annoyed, Jim repeated, "can I just explain what happened.-"

By the time Jim had cuffs on him, and was thrown into the back seat of the cop's Charger, another Castleton Police car pulled in right behind it. This was the officer that began to antagonize Jim in the back of the car. Jim took the breathalyzer and still wanted to just plead his case. A few obscenities were exchanged between this officer and Jim, because Jim told the officer to stop kicking his leg.

The police officer was leaning on Jim's leg with his own. Jim yelled for the officer to remove his boot from his knee. The officer sat there long enough to count to five Mississippi, then removed his foot and shut the door. The Charger pulled out of its parking spot, and the officer threw his hands up in the air and said, "wooo."

Seeing how this incident was dealt with, I was disgusted for three reasons. One, the Castleton Police were called for the wrong incident outside Jim's building, they should have been there a few hours sooner.

Two, I had to watch my peer plead his case to every officer, and still being treated like he was causing trouble. Climbing out of a window is stupid but isn't there a campus fine for that? Why do we need to call the Castleton Police to deal with that, when Public Safety had no problem dealing with the previous event in house?

Three, there were about 50 drunk students that walked by the scene without being questioned about drinking that night. The police seemed to be out for underage drinkers, because Jim got charged with drinking underage, despite being far less intoxicated than the several underage passerbys.

Need Inspiration? Talk to Pitts

Professors are supposed to be the inspiration for students, the driving force to make them want to learn the subjects, in my case, journalism. But professors need inspiration too, and I got a full dose of it on the recent trip to the College Media Advisors conference in New York City.

Byron Pitts is a pretty well-known CBS broadcaster who recently landed his dream job as a "60 Minutes" reporter. But his story of how he got there is little known.

At age 12, Pitts was illiterate and he stuttered. In college, when he told classmates his goal was to be a 60 Minutes reporter, they laughed. One college professor told him to quit school, because he was wasting his time and the state's money trying to become a broadcast journalist.

But thanks to another professor, who took him under her wing, two decades and countless awards later, Pitts reached his goal.

Pitts started his keynote address at the conference with that story.

He said "talent is overrated," and that passion and a will to succeed can make up for learning deficiencies and a lack of talent that others may possess.

I loved that. I preach that every day in class, that desire is a must in order to succeed.

He went on to talk about how journalists can make change, like with his video story of a hulking soldier who was mistreated by military doctors and died eight years later from skin cancer, an emaciated and broken man.

His death wasn't in vane, though, because thanks to Pitts' story, the government is considering a law that would hold the military accountable – like private doctors are held accountable – when patients are incorrectly treated.

He showed a story he did on USC football coach Pete Carroll, which highlighted Carroll's early morning ventures into the streets of L.A. to try to convince gang members to stop fighting and become positive citizens.

And he made the audience relive Sept. 11, which brought me to tears, having worked in a newsroom that day when there simply was no time for tears.

He sees his role as a journalist as one to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted."

What really impressed me, was at the beginning of the event, he gave the 400 or so people in the audience both his e-mail address and cell phone number and told them if they needed help or had questions, they could contact him.

That, he said, stemmed from the English professor who gave him faith to continue pursuing his dream.

I hope I sound inspired.

--David Blow
Spartan Advisor

College grads may end up flipping burgers

The fact that our country is facing an economic crisis is undisputable. Everywhere we turn, there are signs of recession. The job market is dwindling; even those in tenured positions are being laid off. Gas is going up too – it's ironic how that always happens right after the new president takes office.

I worry about the college students who are graduating this May. The prospect of entering the workforce at a time like this must seem daunting. 2009 has brought quite a few challenges for the general population, but I'd like to focus on the effect it has had on college students.

I'm a second-semester sophomore, and surprisingly more financially bogged down that I thought I'd allow myself to be. Being a full-time student and working 14 hours a week amidst extracurricular activities, doesn't leave much free time – even for another job. I truly enjoy keeping busy, doing positive things for both myself and others, and it bothers me that I am forced to choose – time or money.

I am at a crossroads. Academically, can I afford another part-time job? Financially, can I afford to live without another part-time job? Time really is money, but time doesn't pay the bills.

Where is the financial bail-out for college students? Where are our stimulus packages?

It seems like the economy has forgotten about the lowly college students who have to pay their own way through school. There are students who pay their own rent, buy their own groceries, and put gas in their own cars – despite the faltering economy. These students still manage to go to school full-time with no compensation. Many of these students work part-time on top of a full course-load. What happens to a student like this, when he or she just can't make rent, and paycheck to paycheck isn't enough to get by?

It seems like the solution to this problem is easy – for everyone else; "Just ask your parents for some money, ask your parents to take out more loans under their name!" What happens when the student can't rely on his or her parents financially?

It adds insult to injury when the response to a person's whole-hearted job search is laughter. I walk into the corner store already feeling like I'm about to settle for less than I'm worth, but I suck it up and ask for a job. The manager laughs and retorts, "You're looking for a JOB?" She stares at me like a second head has just sprouted from my neck. Is looking for a job really that taboo these days?

This is what our economy is saying – at one point, we might have been worth $10 an hour; now we're unemployable by no fault of our own.

Where are the for hire signs? What is going to happen to the students who can't make ends meet each month? Will we be forced to fall into the pit of credit card revolvers, and become yet another indebted statistic?

What will happen when an education becomes too expensive?

Bret Michaels is a bad bald joke

Everyone gets pumped about meeting a celebrity.

So, when I walked into the Spartan meeting and got assigned to cover a concert of a celebrity, I was ecstatic. Never mind the fact that it was a washed up, wrinkly, make-up covered Bret Michaels; it was someone who has reached some status in the world of famous people.

My friends and I are glued to his trashy VH1 reality show, "Rock of Love," yet again, another reason to be excited to cover the concert. Never mind the many screaming phone calls to our friends and parents, who we had to explain who Michaels was almost every time we spoke.

That was when a thought popped into my head. Just how much "celebrity status" does this man actually have?

Nonetheless, the fact that he's not as famous as he was in the '80s, and having since resorted to reality shows with strippers competing for his love, should probably give me even a better shot at getting an interview with him.

Michaels is known for shameless promotion of himself, so an interview would never be out of the question- or so I thought.

Contacting his publicist was as easy as hitting the Google search bar.

But when called, a voice-mail was the only human contact that was reached.

But of course, a celebrity is busy so they would probably call me back at some point.

Six phone calls and two e-mails later and nothing, no response.

Determined that this is going to happen, new outfits were even purchased in hopes of looking professional for this washed-up wannabe. I'm sure glad I left the tags on and kept my receipts.

Just hours before the show, what does Mr. Michaels tell the venue?

He says no press at all.

So thank you Bret Michaels. Thanks for being far too good for a lowly college journalism student just trying to make something of herself after college. It's refreshing to see former celebrities using their fame to help others out.

All I really wanted to know was if that hair was real anyway.

Read The Spartan
WWW.CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM
ONLINE
great idea
our pals
artan!

OVERHEARD ONLINE @ CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM

Responses to "I'd rather die a Spartan":

I'm both a graduate of Castleton and UVM. Two distinct - and should remain - separate institutions. I loved Castleton for its small intimate nurturing learning environment. I learned a lot and grew a lot in those years. I laughed when I read the article because it was the same fight we fought in the '70s. Merge the schools and make Castleton a feeder school to UVM. Cream the best and junk the rest. I too would rather die a Spartan.

-Mark Schroeter

My wife and I are CASTLETON graduates class of 1970. Our CASTLETON was a unique setting in which to mature and venture into the world of teaching and coaching. After more than thirty years both of us are thankful we had the opportunity CASTLETON afforded us. I am proud to have been a CASTLETON soccer and lacrosse player for Dick Terry, twice class president and the first pledge master for , dare I admit, Kappa Delta Phi. My wife was senior class president, cheerleader, a Delta, sister group of the Kappas,and back then a bat girl for the baseball team. Could we have been this involved at UVM? It is doubtful! Our college background was more complete than most due to the small caring environment of the college. We are an older academic setting than uvm-1787to 1795, I believe, and one that is still forging ahead.

Forget this foolish idea of uvm/CASTELTON. I am a SPARTAN, my blood flows CASTLETON GREEN and I WILL die a SPARTAN before I contribute to a uvm/CASTLETON!!!!

-Harry D. Evans, III

Response to "I'll miss George W. Bush"

I think you all suck. Look at what Obama is doing to our country. I will miss Bush because at least he was a bit more careful with his spending and he wasn't trying to turn us into a socialist country. I personally was devastated when they announced Obama as the new president.

-Heather Huntington

Castleton Spartan
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Laundry card may replace coins

By Kyle Turner
Castleton Spartan

So it's 7 p.m. and you have to do laundry, but you don't have any quarters and your friends don't either.

By this time, the bank is closed and now you have no way of getting quarters. This would be the time where you would think to yourself, "Man, I wish we had a card that we could just swipe to do our laundry."

Many students at Castleton State College constantly complain about having to get quarters in order to wash and dry their clothing. Even though the bank is a mere tenth of a mile away from the campus, they say it's still a pain to have to go and exchange cash for coins.

Some students on campus say it would be much easier if the campus had laundry machines that could scan their School ID cards and deduct money from that. Students at other colleges around the area including UVM pay for their laundry through their room and board. Others, like Lyndon State, operate laundry with coin-operated machines like Castleton.

"It's very convenient being able to swipe a card to do laundry instead of getting quarters," stated a UVM student government official who asked that his name not be used.

Each UVM student has 100 loads of laundry put on their ID cards. Every time they swipe their cards to wash or dry their clothing, a load of laundry gets deducted from the amount on the card.

Middlebury College students on the other hand are in the same boat as students at Castleton, in the sense that they have to pay $1.25 in quarters per load.

Castleton Director of Residence Life Dennis Proulx is the man who handles the business with the company supplying the washer and dryer machines, Mac Gray.

"Every 10 years we renew our contract with Mac Gray and sometimes with that renewal comes new machines. We are now on year six of our contract," Proulx said.

A universal card is one of the possibilities in the near future. A universal card would be a card that you get separately from your ID card that you use for food, laundry and even vending services, Proulx said.

The only issues with that are the changes in cost, but it would definitely be much more convenient with students instead of having to go and get quarters. Aramark, the vendor that supplies food for Castleton students on campus, would also have to agree along with Mac Gray to get a universal card that would work on food and laundry.

But despite the potential complications of adopting a new card system, students seem to like the idea.

"It would just be so much easier and convenient for everyone on campus to have the universal card," said Jared Skliba, a Castleton freshman.

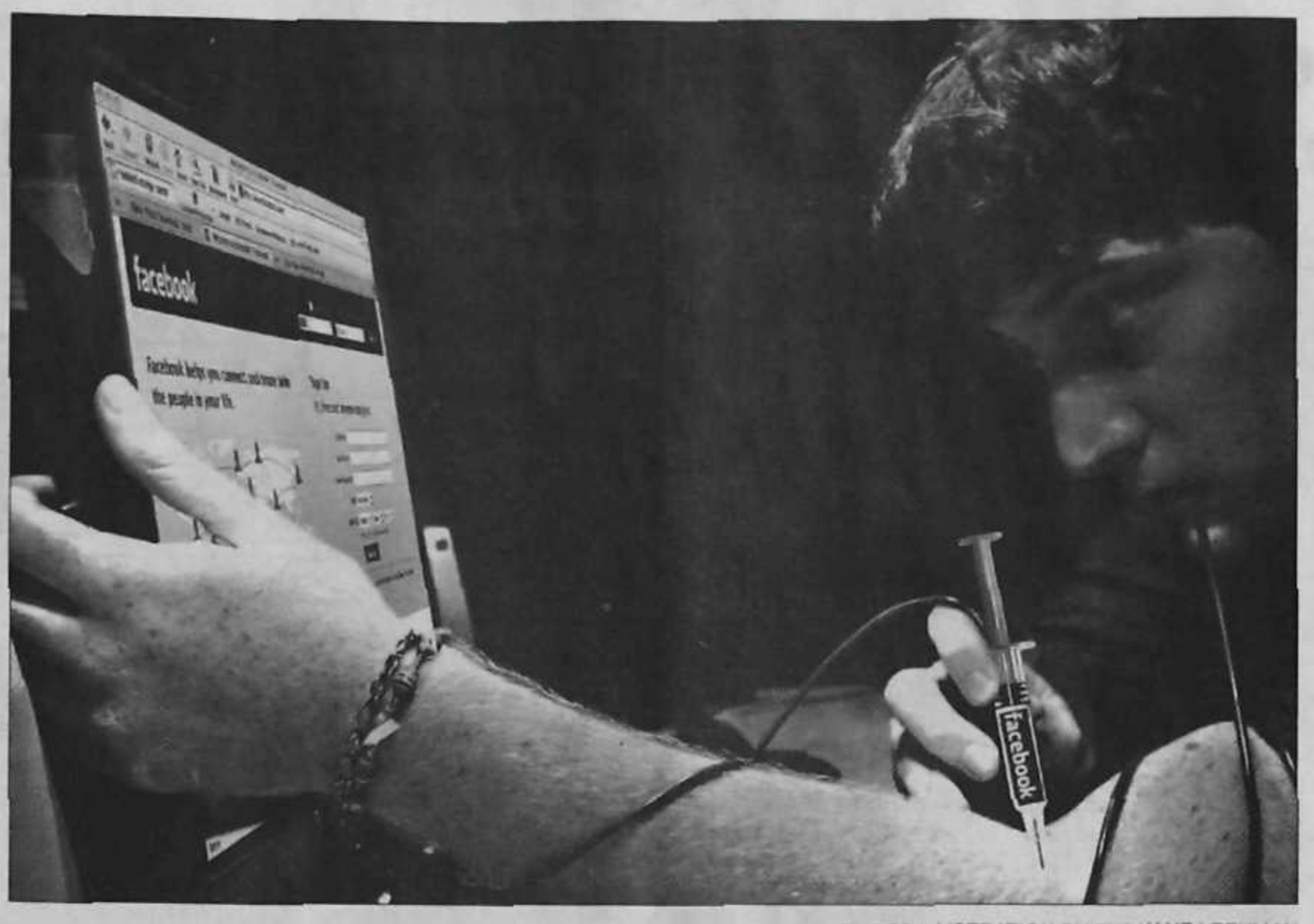


PHOTO ILLISTRATION BY EVA KANE LEENMAN

Fixing for Facebook

By Jessica Lawrenson
Castleton Spartan

"I was sitting in science class and to my surprise, I felt my pants suddenly becoming warm and wet."

"I looked behind me to see that four boys from my class had inserted a small funnel into my exposed butt crack, and were pouring the melted butter from the experiment into that area."

This clip came from what seems to be the new addiction Internet site called www.Fmylife.com. On this website people write humiliating things that happen to them throughout the day.

Most students have Web sites they frequently check during the day. Most of those sites are generally more personal in nature, such as Myspace and Facebook.

Students on the Castleton campus seem to have a favorite site, as mostly seem to favor Facebook.

But there are execptions.

"I hate Facebook," said Castleton student Amy Morse. "But I like the people on it and that is why I use it."

Morse prefers Web sites with more entertainment value, with her favorite site being Igoogle.

With Igoogle, users are able to create their own personalized home page, adding links to local weather, games, national news and more.

Two other entertainment purpose sites that seem to have arisen recently are Failblog.org and Engrish.com.

A CSC student who would like to remain anonymous because of the fear of intense Internet goers who are protective of what sites are spread, said these Web sites were fun and entertaining.

These sites detail messups in everyday life. Failblog is mostly pictures and videos of things that go ridiculously wrong.

Engrish is a website that makes fun of the translations between English and some Asian languages through photos of signs.

Castleton freshman Amanda Malony likes Youtube, a video-sharing site familiar to those heavily in the cyber world. Youtube offers users hours of entertainment, by watching video clips on anything and everything.

But how do these Web sites become found? When asking around it seems as if most come from Facebook.

The bumper sticker application on Facebook advertises these sites. The bumper stickers are either about the sites or are photos from the sites with the names of the site in the corner.

These sites have become addicting to many people, as they offer good laughs or something that makes them feel better about their lives.

Spring thaw brings mud and Frisbees

By Molly Fraher
Castleton Spartan

We've all heard of seasonal depression. Long, dry, winters, and bleak, dull falls – but what about spring?

After students survive the transformation from summer to fall, the winter months bring about sulking for some, but joy for others.

Vermont is notorious for having long winters, ideal for diehard skiers, snowboarders and other adventurous folk. Lots of kids head to Killington, Pico, Okemo and other surrounding mountains religiously and make the most of their winters with the fun white stuff.

So what happens when spring starts slowly creeping around the corner?

"This time of year is always best, but spring riding is always a good time," said junior Tom Conzo.

Conzo has been riding up at Killington since his freshman year and usually shreds once or twice a week.

Fellow junior and snowboarder Jeff Dayton, who visits the mountain just about as regularly as Conzo has a different take on the matter.

"I hate slush and mud," he said. "I just want to get it over with, and have it be warm and nice out."

For those students who don't exactly prefer the fluffy flakes and below zero temperatures, spring has been a long time coming.

However, there is one thing that students can do to keep their spirits high.

"I would suggest that students take in some extra Vitamin D during the winter months," said Castleton State College Professor Wendy Leffel.

Leffel recently had discussions with her Women's Health Issues class about how the sun is a major source of Vitamin D, which helps our immune systems.

Not all students are suffering from a 'spring depression' however.

Junior Geoffrey Walker, who recently acquired a 1978 Starcraft this past summer, is eager for Lake Bomoseen to warm up.

"I'm upset there is no more ice fishing," Walker said. "But I'll be happy to get my boat out there."

On another note, Castleton's spring athletes have always gotten the short end of the stick when it comes to having nice weather to begin their seasons.

"To see the snow melting means that the lax field will be opening soon," said senior Katelyn Greene, just one of the numerous athletes who are itching to move practices outside.

Warm sunny days won't only satisfy the sports teams, but it seems the majority of the college community as well.

"When it's nice out and everyone hangs outside," Greene said. "That's my favorite part of the year."

Why's spring so special?

By Wendy Young
Castleton Spartan

The snow melts, the plants grow, the birds sing 'It's Spring! It's Spring!'

After a dreary cold winter, spring is a season that many people look forward to. Seeing that first spring bird, knowing that the Easter Bunny is just around the corner.

What people may not know, however, is that spring did not always herald the coming of Easter.

The official first day of spring is either March 20 or 21 each year, with it falling on March 20 this year.

That official first day has several names. The first day of spring, the Vernal Equinox, Ostara. Ostara is the name that has probably been around the longest.

This time of year was picked by the Christians to become Easter. The Jewish holiday of Passover takes place around this time as well.

The spring festival was celebrated in honor of birth-death-rebirth and the goddess Eostre (which later became Ostara) long before the actual 'Easter' was celebrated. The Easter Bunny didn't even come in until about the 16th century in Germany.

Ostara is one of the eight holidays on the Wiccan Wheel of the Year. The spring equinox is often celebrated by planting gardens, as this is one of the best times to do so.

That's the spiritual part of the spring equinox. The scientific part, according to timeanddate.com: "The March equinox is the movement when the sun crosses the true celestial equator – or the line in the sky above the earth's equator – from south to north, around March 20 (or March 21) of each year. At that time, day and night are balanced to nearly 12 hours each all over the world and the earth's axis of rotation is perpendicular to the line connecting the centers of the earth and the sun."

Fresh Perspectives

Megan Davis

The word unreasonable usually denotes a bad quality.

Defined by Google, specifically it means "not reasonable or not showing good judgment." However, the keynote Soundings event featuring Henriette Mantel opened with the following quote: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the conditions that surround him. The unreasonable man adapts surrounding conditions to himself. All progress depends on the unreasonable man."

Therefore, Mantel and her partner, Steve Skrovan, turned a word usually used in bad context into something very different. The event taught me much more than I thought it would. At first I thought this was just going to be some boring movie, and then an even more boring question and answer session afterward.

Man, was I wrong. Their portrayal of Ralph Nader was not only incredibly informative, but also very entertaining, for most of it. The movie itself was captivating, and at some points even amusing. The usage of the "MF" word by one of the interviewees was a particular crowd favorite.

During the end of movie most students, myself included, began getting antsy. They started giving wisecrack remarks, and asking Mantel herself for the question for the second Soundings card simply to get out of there. Unfortunately for the students at the Soundings event, Mantel, being a comedian, rolled with the punches and shot sarcastic remarks right back without ever giving up the soundings question.

The past week of weather has been so incredibly nice! I am so hoping beyond hope that spring is finally here to stay. A couple weeks ago, there was a nice, sunny weekend, and then snow. I was entirely disappointed! It's been so nice the past couple of days, seeing half the campus out and about, enjoying the sunshine. I just want it to stay this way - nice and warm. I am so sick of snow.

My friends, that actually live in Vermont, tell me that we're getting ready to enter mud season, and, despite the fact that I've never experienced mud season, I couldn't be more excited about it.

Warm weather please come here to stay! It was such a comforting feeling to see people playing basketball outside of Ellis again.

Even if you aren't Irish like myself, I hope everyone had an amazing St. Patrick's Day! I saw an abundance of green outside today and even learned something new! My friend Ian told me that if someone is wearing orange on St. Patrick's Day, you're supposed to be hit or pinched, because it's disrespectful or something. That was something new.

I spent a majority of my day in class, watching "Boondock Saints," and eating free brownies in the first floor common room of Adams. It was a really good time, and I hope everyone else can vouch that theirs was good, too.

Alum takes Nader to forefront in film

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

Hundreds of students piled into the Glenbrook Gymnasium on March 4 to watch Castleton alumni Henriette Mantel introduce her 2005 film "An Unreasonable Man."

As a student at Castleton, Mantel lived in Morrill Hall as an American Studies major. She explained the major allowed a wide range of topics.

"Basically (I could) take every class I wanted to take and then make it into a major," Mantel said.

And like many students, Mantel said she really had no idea what she wanted to do after graduation.

Since graduating from Castleton in 1976, Mantel has become an accomplished actress, comedian and film writer.

But before that, she held other jobs.

For several years after graduation, she waited tables at a ski resort. Soon she went seeking a job, writing letters to three of her idols, including public-interest lawyer Ralph Nader.

Nader happened to be the one to respond.

"He told me it was because of my return address," said Mantel. "His favorite grade-school teacher had been from Vermont."

From there she went on to do many other big things, acting as the role of Alice in the "Brady Bunch" film, and performing in an episode of "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Sex in the City."

She would later cross paths with Nader yet again.

After the 2000 presidential election, Mantel said that comedian Andy Kindler got right into her face and told her that Nader was ruining the country. It was then she realized someone had to do something to change this general opinion.

She chose to be that someone.

Mantel would then direct the film "An Unreasonable Man," which takes a glimpse into the life of Nader, showing how without ever holding public office he was able to develop such a vast legislative record.

The film also offers different perspective as to why Nader is often blamed for Al Gore's controversial loss to George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Castleton alumna Henriette Mantel, director of the film "An Unreasonable Man" answers questions at the Keystone event.

Although the 122-minute film left the cramped students in Glenbrook a bit antsy near the end of it, many found it educational and interesting.

Castleton freshman Ethan Garhartt, a supporter of Ralph Nader, said that he really enjoyed the political aspect of the film and the fact that it explored the "political development of Ralph very well."

And even those who were not as passionate about the film enjoyed listening to Mantel.

"She saved the show during the question and answer session with her sarcasm and energy," said freshman Jacob Ferry.

During this question and answer session, when asked if she liked Castleton and how it had prepared her for life, Mantel provided a brief anecdote explaining how one of her male friends was dropping her off in front of Morrill Hall.

She told him to bring her inside, and although he was "not under the influence," he drove straight through the front doors.

"That cost a lot of money to repair," said Mantel, laughing. "I loved Castleton."

"Castleton taught me that I could be good at things I like and that I should stay away from things I don't," she said. "I have learned that if you have a story to tell- tell it."

"People are going to tell you that you shouldn't tell it, but if you have one: tell it," Mantel said.

Students to earn cash for Safe Ride services

By Steve McNulty
Castleton Spartan

One of Castleton State College's most utilized and popular services has been operating on a much more consistent basis than in the past.

Safe Ride, a program that offers students a free, safe, and sober ride home, has recently been running on every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. It mig help that the drivers are no getting paid.

In the past, Safe Ride relied solely on volunteers, and it was difficult to predict if the service would be running from night to night. Kate Spaulding, the Administrative Assistant for the Wellness Center, ca remember Safe Ride shutting down on more than on occasion due to a lack of volunteers.

"Some nights, volunteers would show up and we would have more than enough. The next night, nothing," said Spaulding. "At the beginning of last semester, it was hard to find the volunteers we needed. I think it's running much more smoothly now."

Last semester, this issue was brought to the Student Association, where it was decided that drivers were to be paid $55 for one night's work, which is typically between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Sometimes, however, drivers may see longer hours. Patrick Duffy, a senior at Castleton, was so swamped with passengers on Valentine's Day weeken that he didn't finish up until almost 3 a.m.

Safe Ride only employs one driver per night who mans the wheel of one of Castleton's 12-nassenger vans. Every driver must pass a defensive driving course at the college in order to drive for Safe Ride. The service runs every Thursday-Saturday night, and still relies heavily on volunteers.

"We still need people to answer phone calls and to accompany the driver," said Spaulding. "So far this semester, we haven't really had any problems finding volunteers. A lot of the time the student athletes will volunteer. We get a lot of help from our teams."

With Safe Ride's popularity growing among students, word of the service has spread to other college campuses.

"We get a lot of phone calls from other schools that are interested in starting a similar service," said Spaulding.

Jeff Charboneau, a senior at UVM and recent visitor to the Castleton campus, is an advocate of Safe Ride.

"We definitely need something like this in Burlington," he said. "There is something called BADD, which stands for Brothers Against Drunk Driving, but it's really just for people in fraternities. Something for the rest of the school would be nice."

Spaulding said that Castleton's Safe Ride should be running every weekend from now until graduation. To contact Safe Ride, call 468-1472.

CSC club to help fund African girls' school

By Annie Hartman
Castleton Spartan

It's all about what's in the boxes for the Social Issues club.

A daily walk through Jefford's Center or Leavenworth Hall takes students past modest cardboard boxes beaconing to be filled with shoes and clothes.

The club, advised by Professor Lillian Jackson, is made up of four students: Erin Barry, Amanda Nigrello, Lisa Brown and Hillary Ward. But even with a small number of group members, this club is making an effort to make a huge impact for female students half way across the world.

Jackson picked up an issue of the Rutland Herald in November of 2008 and read about a fellow Castleton professor's son, Andrew Cunningham.

Cunningham, a Vermont native, had received a community service scholarship to attend Duke University. The Duke Blue Devil, however, was not studying in his dorm room in Durham, N.C. He was in Kenya, Africa participating in an effort to open a school for girls.

Jackson brought the article to the next Social Issues Club meeting and the girls jumped on the idea to help with supporting the female students and the school. The members took action making up boxes and placing them in high-traffic areas in academic buildings on campus. E-mails were disbursed to all Castleton students the week preceding February break asking for donations in the form of either money or clothes.

The group members also set up at Castleton hockey games this past winter and walked around the rink collecting cash donations. The group plans to continue to raise money at spring sporting events and the boxes will remain in all major academic halls.

"I think it's awesome that they had a small idea and we have a small idea and together it's become a big idea," said Nigello.

For several reasons, only a small percentage of girls in Africa attend school. This school in Kenya is being not only supported by Cunningham and the members of the Castleton Social Issues Club, but it is also being sponsored by Unicef and Johnson & Johnson.

Even the building itself is being done on volunteer time; builders and contractors from both the U.S. and Africa donating their time and services to the cause. The girls attending the school will also learn how to play soccer. A school in Switzerland has donated jerseys, cleats, and soccer balls to the school.

The school, which is scheduled to open in 2010, will accept about 150 girls who will be housed on campus and taught by African teachers trained by Duke University professors. The school will also have a nurse on campus for the students.

"This isn't only helping the girls," said Barry. "It's helping the community."

The Castleton Social Issues Club has set their goal at $1,000. A lot of the money raised will have to go toward shipping the clothing donations. The cost, according to Jackson, is "enormous."

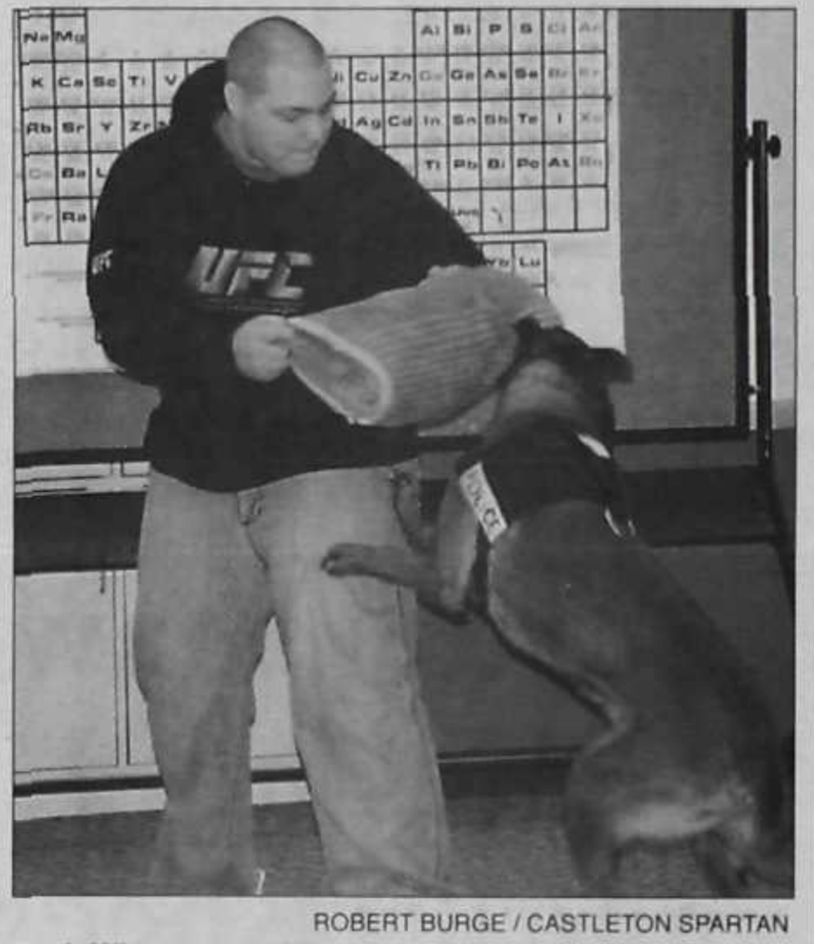
The boxes around campus are decorated with photos and a list of desired items to be sent. The group stresses that jeans are not necessary but cleats and shoes are important because they don't have shoes. Skirts and dresses are asked for- both are a sign of respect.

If the group exceeds their expectations financially, they would like to sponsor a student. But for now, the group is focusing on gathering the necessary items from Castleton students and keeping in touch with Cunningham and making a difference.

"It's time to make a change now," said Barry.

The group meets every Monday at noon in Leavenworth room 205. Any items can be deposited in any of the boxes around campus. If any student has any questions or ideas, Barry encourages e-mails through her Castleton campus e-mail.

"We're willing to go to any length," said Brown regarding supporting the girls' school. "I think it's exciting to help another culture and learn about another culture," she added.



ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Zack Wiessner endures the wrath of a police dog at a State Police K-9 demonstration in Jeffords Hall.

K-9 unit visits Castleton

By Jessica Lawrenson
Castleton Spartan

Ever think you would walk into Jeffords Auditorium, see a dog find marijuana, and then bite two students?

Well it didn't exactly happen like that, but with the police dog demonstration that the Castleton Criminal Justice club set up to raise money for their trip to Washington, it was something of the sort.

"I was scared at first," said Ross Armell, the first student to have the k-9 latched on to his arm.

Cpl. Ed Hunter of the Vermont State Police came to campus on March 5 with his partner in defeating crime, Maxamus, a dog in the K-9 unit.

During the demonstration, Hunter went over the basic skills a police dog must have, including obedience. Hunter had commanded Maxamus to perform all that he must do and know.

Police dogs are mostly used to attack criminals, find narcotics, and for tracking people. In order for the K-9 to know what to do with these commands, they must go through a 12-week training course that includes basic obedience and attack work.

Once the training is all said and done, the dog must return twice a year to take a physical training test. If the dog does not pass, then it is no longer allowed to be on the force and must retire.

To show what Maxamus could really do, the officers hid two articles that had been soaked in the stench of marijuana. When Hunter said "drugs," his hairy partner Maxamus went in search of drugs and found them in no time.

Shortly after, two students had volunteered to be attacked by the dog. Hunter took some time to rile the nerves of the students in attendance.

When instructed to attack, Maxamus bolted towards the student volunteer. Luckily for the student, Hunter called the dog back before it made it across to room to the student, leaving the student completely unharmed and question his choice to volunteer.

This was humorous for those who were watching. Hunter had provided protective sleeves for the student volunteers. When Maxamus finally latched on to the volunteer's arm, no amount of arm flailing could swing the dog loose.

"It was cool as hell," said Zack Wiessner, the second student to get bit.

Wiessner thought that this whole demonstration was entertaining, which was a nice change for him.

Hunter explained that the dog is not dangerous as long as you know how to reward him and control him. Hunter controls Maxamus is by rewarding him with his favorite toy.

Time to hand out awards

The CSC Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for its 2009 Outstanding Faculty award and the Leonard C. Goldman ('59) Distinguished Senior award.

The Outstanding Faculty award is given to a Castleton faculty member that demonstrates "excellence in teaching and influences students well beyond graduation."

The Leonard C. Goldman ('59) Distinguished Senior award is given to a senior student graduating in May 2009 (or Dec. 2008) that best exemplifies quality leadership, spirit, and service to the college community and beyond.

To nominate someone for either award, you must be a CSC community member. Nomination forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Alumni Development office in Woodruff Hall or on the CSC website www.castleton.edu. Click on Alumni and scroll down in the left hand margin to the appropriate award. NO handwritten nominations will be accepted. Nominations close on Friday, March 27.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office in Woodruff Hall at 468-1240.

Film Review

ike Weins
astleton Spartan

"Breaking Bad"

AMC was once known for owing old movies. It was e channel your parents and andparents would watch. at now (and for awhile) s been directed toward a unger audience, mainly in e 20-30ish range. They've en showing more movies om the '80s and '90s and lling them the "new clas-cs," even the not so great ovies.

They also have started to ow some original series. his can be a tricky move r a station that says they ily show programming at falls under the "classic" ting. In some ways the sta-on calling a TV show that ey made a classic is a bit otistical. But that doesn't appen with the show Break-g Bad.

"Breaking Bad" is an MC original series about chemistry teacher and a rug dealer who team up to roduce meth so the chemis-y teacher can raise enough oney to give to his family efore he dies of cancer. The ow stars Bryan Cranston ho played Hal, the father in Malcolm and the Middle," e only good character in at show in my opinion.

"Breaking Bad" started ring last year and the sec-nd season started last week. missed it on the usual Sun-y 10 p.m. time slot, but anks to the wonders of the nternet I was able to watch on AMC.com. This is a reat option because now I on't have to worry about issing an episode or rush ome, while dodging the olice (not that I would do at).

I just watched the first epi-ode of season two on AMC. om and it was awesome. omparing it to last season ot much has changed, it's ill "Breaking Bad," but ere have been steps to go rward with the characters nd overall tone of the show. he first season was a bit ark because of its content, e making and selling and sing of crystal meth. But ow it's even darker - liter-lly.

One improvement they ave made is that the light-ng seems to be even more atural than the first season. he first season didn't look ke a sitcom but now it oks like a documentary. In ne scene particularly Wal-r and Jesse are talking by a itchen window and the only ght source is the window.

The lighting is at its best ere creating the tension nd foreboding atmosphere at the characters are feel-ng at the time. It also looks ealistic. It looks like how would if you walked into our kitchen with the lights rned off and the sun com-ng through the window.

The handheld camera ork seems to be more ap-arent but its not like The hield where it looks like it kes place during an earth-uake. Not every shot is andheld but just enough to ive it that edgy real look. he cinematographer doesn't estrict himself to just your tandard wide, close up, or edium shots. They go for p high, down low and also rom the perspective of some f the objects the characters ay interact with.

When I watched the show nline, not only was the epi-ode good but the quality of he video was superb. AMC id a great job to provide his series online. You can't watch season one online ut they do provide recap pisodes. No matter how ou watch it, TV or online, Breaking Bad is a show that hould not be missed.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

The cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" lights up Castleton's Casella Theater.

"Fiddler" wows CSC

By Wendy Young
Castleton Spartan

Inside Castleton's Casella Theater, the lights dimmed and the audience was transported to a small Russian village of Anatevka. The year is 1905.

In this village lives a man named Tevye, a man with a wife and five daughters.

The musical "Fiddler on the Roof," presented by the college this past weekend, follows Tevye's family as his daughters grow.

Not grow in the sense of getting older, but as they grow in knowing their own minds, and knowing which paths they need to take in life.

Tevye's main problem is that he has to struggle between tradition and the changing times that his daughters are becoming part of.

His other problem is that his horse's foot always hurts so he has to pull the cart himself.

Senior Rebecca Facteau summed up the audience's general opinion of the play.

"It was amazing and very well put together," Facteau said.

The performance was well-rehearsed. The scenery, while not quite simple, was not overly dramatic. It was just right for the type of performance.

The actors' energy was catching, and the audience found themselves on the edge of their seats, wrapped up in Tevye's and Anatevka's problems.

The only complaint about the performance that comes to mind is that sometimes the music was slightly louder than the words of the song that was being sung.

There is no complaint with the actual voices of the actors, many of which may go on to have successful careers.

Castleton President David Wolk was very pleased by the performance.

"It was a fantastic performancem" Wolk said. "Professor McEnerny always directs high-quality performances."

"This is one of the best ever, he said. "I'm very proud of the cast and crew."

And it is a rather large cast. Tevye, and his wife and children. Yente the matchmaker. The Rabbi, and the rest of the villagers.

But perhaps most important of all is the character that doesn't appear quite as often as the others - the fiddler himself.

And yet the fiddler's opening lines served as a dose of philosphy to the eager audience.

"Every one of us is a fiddler on the roof," he said. "Trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck."

Student-written comedy to appear on Castleton stage following spring break

By Jenna Charbonneau
Castleton Spartan

There's a mime with the mind of a thief, an older brother with stubborn humor and witty points of view.

This brother has a friend with a depressed, love-stricken roommate who talks as if from renaissance times.

These are only a few of the interesting characters portrayed in the up-coming play "Top Floor" opening on April 6.

The creation of "Top Floor" began with an awkward encounter in the boy's bathroom of Woodruff Hall, when Sam Ducharme, a senior at Castleton, discovered his inspiration for writing this comical piece.

"This is a fun story," Ducharme said when asked about where his ideas came from.

Ducharme begins to explain an event that took place his sophomore year. He was taking an Intro to Theater Arts class and one of his friends was presenting the art of pantomime to show his classmates.

"He was in the bathroom on the top floor in his costume putting the makeup on," Ducharme said. "One of my friends who wasn't in our class walked in to use the bathroom and saw a clown standing there."

Ducharme's face shows excitement when he describes what happened next.

"He got totally bladder-shy and had to about basically walk out, he couldn't deal with it," said Ducharme. "I just thought that story was really funny."

After three years of dedication and imagination Ducharme put together a story full of comical excitement and entertainment, the first student written full-length play to be performed at Castleton's Fine Arts Center since Ray Charles's "Ice Cold Vodka" many years ago.

In this play you see laughter, love, brawls, and dramatic family situations.

As you may see drama in the play, the cast members get along great in rehearsals.

"Everyone likes the play," said Ryan Bailey who plays the character of Mark. "There's no drama."

Other cast members seemed to have the same feelings.

"I think it's a great play for college students. It's goofy and fun at the same time," said Andy Donovan who plays the character of Garret.

"It's very different then most of the comedies that come to Castleton State," said DeFelice, a co-stage manager. "It's original."

"Top Floor" consist of 13 cast members, two stage directors, and Ducharme as the producer and director. Students Karee Chadd and Kelsey Farnsworth are in charge of props and costumes.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SAM DUCHARME

The cast of "Top Floor" strikes a pose.

The cast meets frequently and spends a lot of their little free time memorizing their lines and rehearsing their parts.

With all the hard work cast members are putting into the play, they have had to deal with one problem.

"One major difficulty has been trying to have rehearsals for a show while a main stage show is going up," said Ducharme when referring to "Fiddler on the Roof which opened March 19.

Many of the cast members taking part in "Top Floor" were also involved with "Fiddler," making them have to double the lines they memorize.

Even with this pressure students have continued to have positive energy.

"This is a really good group of kids. They are really dedicated to what they do," said DeFelice. "They have a great attitude about being here."

"Top Floor" is charging an admission of $5 to see the show. Half of the earnings will be given to the Rutland Food Shelf and Alpha Psi Omega.

"Top Floor" is a comedy that isn't your average slapstick-style productions, but instead a combination of real life college-like situations with a innovative and humorous twists.

"I hope people think it's as funny as I do," said Ducharme.

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Break it Down

Melissa Pope

So, I have some beef to take up with Hollywood right now.

I can't think back and count how many magazine articles I have seen that talk about plastic surgery or someone being overweight or underweight.

It is beyond ridiculous when you try to find a celebrity who hasn't been critiqued for their appearance. The part that is the most annoying is that the perfect body is not even obtainable, at least according to Hollywood standards.

The E! Channel always has different specials about celebrities, and those nights where I just can't sleep, that is what tends to catch my eye. They have been showcasing this one about worst celebrity plastic surgeries.

Tara Reid is a face that always pops up in these types of shows. She is maybe a size 4, and went for liposuction to get rid of that fat that was invisible to most of America, and she ended up walking away with a botched tummy job.

Lucky her.

Then there is Lindsay Lohan, who started out in Hollywood cute as a button and now the only category she seems to fit in is the train wreck column. Lohan was not overweight at all during her teenage starlet years, and was quoted as loving her curvy frame, and not wanting to mold into those typical stereotypes of female stars and their weight.

But, as time went on, Lohan just seemed to disappear, but not out of the limelight, but her body dwindled down to almost nothing.

Hollywood is full of hypocrisy. People bashed Lohan when she was a normal healthy size, but then when she went to the extreme to fulfill their demands, everyone decided to bash how little she got. Make sense to anyone?

Britney Spears is yet another example Hollywood's cruel idea of constructive criticism. She has been all over the map when it comes to personal problems and career problems. But when Spears decided to make her comeback last year at the MTV awards, what was critiqued the most? Should have been her music right?

Wrong. It was her body that once again was not good enough.

So, pretty much my word of advice is not to try and strive to look like one of these stars, admire them,and love their work, yes. But model your behavior after most of their lifestyles, probably not a healthy diet plan.

Screw stereotypes.
Be healthy and happy.
End of story.
Keep it classy Castleton,
Xoxo
Melissa

FRONT & BACK

Justin Garritt elected SGA presiden

Continued from page 1

phasized change as well. The computer information systems major said she wants to push for progression online.

"I'm hoping to keep up the website, redesign it," she said. "Hopefully we'll even have our voting online."

Nyamah Thomas, also a sophomore, is the new vice president of activities, and will be in charge of the activities on campus.

Thomas wants to get more student input. In the past, "people planned events based on what they felt we needed, as opposed to what we wanted," she said.

Thomas intends to create polls to get more student input and hear student opinion of which events to hold and which entertainers to bring in. Attendance to campus events has been a point of concern over the past few years and will be one of her most prominent challenges.

But student input, she feels, is key, and she is confident.

"If more students have a say in it, more students will attend," Thomas said.

Becca Merrow, a junior, will be starting her second term as treasurer and enjoys her job running the finance board, which is no small responsibility.

"(The board) decides how much money each club gets, I report that back to congress, keep track of what's spent," Merrow said.

In the coming year, Merrow plans to incorporate a new program to keep better track of funds.

Dana Pulkinen was
secretary and will be in
of getting information
the SGA out to students
Junior Jazmin Av
was elected to the Just
ties Committee chair, ar
charge of bringing musi
the campus.
Tony Bessette, Stacia

Students: Citgo subs reign supreme

Continued from page

the most bang for your buck. Business isn't about making a million dollars. Sometimes making $1.50 is as good as making $2."

Keller only serves Boar's Head cold cuts in his deli, saying no other place has it.

"It's the only thing I eat," Keller said of Boar's Head meat products. "Number one rule in business is don't serve something you wouldn't eat yourself."

Most Citgo & Deli voters said the meat index was a huge factor in their choice over Gill's. But interestingly enough, most Gill's voters said the meat index at the Deli was the reason they stay away. They said the Citgo subs were enough for two sandwiches. Other voters didn't care about the meat index.

"Fresh meat, fresh products, family owned. You know they put 100 percent into every sandwich," said Jeff Giegler, a Castleton senior, about Gill's.

Gill's and Citgo definitely stand as heavy weights in the ring, as well as Subway and Quizno's. But a dark horse that only few know about is Kappy's in West Rutland.

"The bread is homemade and tastes so amazing," said Anthony Camillone, a Castleton Junior. "I would highly recommend it."

Joining Kappy's as another hidden gem is the Depot Deli on Castleton Main Street. Amber Bergeron, a Castleton Sophomore, said if you haven't been there yet then you don't know.

David Foote, a Castleton senior, said Noonies Deli in Middlebury was worth the trip for a delicious sub. It may be a half hour drive but the fresh slabs of bread alone will keep you coming back, according to Foote.

Students like Nick Bennett might not have a favorite grinder location. Bennett, a Castleton sophomore, doesn't go to Gill's, or Citgo, and does not partake on any footlong no matter what it's worth.

"I don't get subs around here, I'm a China City kind of guy," Bennett said.

Lady hoops Reflection

Continued from page 8

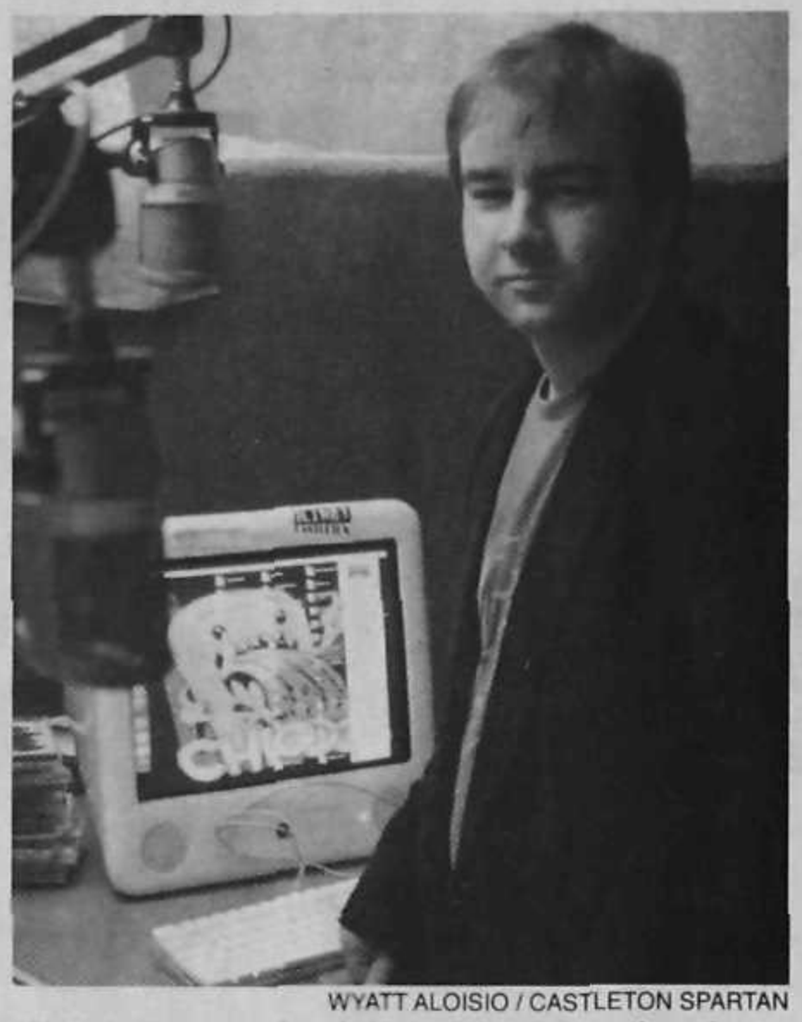
Spartans were defeated 72-31 in a hard-fought game.

The Spartans had quite a season, finishing with a 17-12 overall record and a 9-5 record in NAC play.

One of the team's strengths this season was its veteran players.

"The senior leadership of this team showed late in the season and helped us make a run and reach our goal," said coach Tim Barrett.

The offseason means many things for the Spartans, not only a changing of the guard with the loss of seven seniors, but a chance to look back and celebrate a championship season.



WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

WIUV disk jockey Jacob McLaughlin mans the mic.

Tuning into campus radi

Sarah Kenney
Castleton Spartan

Castleton has an over looked gem that is out in the open for all to hear and enjoy:

WIUV 91.3 FM Castleton, located in the basement of Haskell Hall.

You may just miss it if you aren't looking for the green call letters on the side of the building, but it won't be here for too much longer because WIUV is moving to the new Campus Center once finished.

Students are able to sign up for scheduling slots, and host their very own radio show from talk radio to a variety of musical shows.

It's some kind of wonderful when the weather's warm and your windows are down and you hear a great song come on the radio, so you reach for the knob and turn it on full blast, that feeling is what WIUV is all about.

While WIUV may not be the most listened to radio station on campus, it is the only station where students get the most say.

WIUV is run by the students with only the students in mind and if the listeners tell the station what they want to hear, they will get more of it.

In the future, students will even be able to observe the disc jockeys when walking by. Tammy Lattuca, in charge of Castleton's radio station, is excited for the plans for the new studio have two large windows overlooking the campus.

Unfourtunately, the interest in the station is not as high as the programmers would hope for.

Jacob McLaughlin, wh
been involved since the
2007, hosts a show, "Ec
Jam," that plays every
from classic rock to jazz.

McLaughlin describe
airtime as, "Just a lot of
that I enjoy listening to a
to share with the campus.

Even other organiza
like the Spanish Club on
pus partake in spreading
message via the airwaves

Alex Zappile believe
could really be somethin
was promoted."

Information about wh
going on campus as we
concert updates and othe
bits can be heard strea
from the speakers if you
into 91.3 FM.

Mentoring program lets CSC students give back

Continued from page 1

Head mentor and freshman Stephanie Terry is living proof.

"[The program] was one of my main reasons for coming to CSC," said Terry. "My guidance counselor told me about it, and I really wanted to be apart of it."

The program has not only expanded in size over the years, but also in its capacity to look for, take on, and meet new challenges and heights. While nature of the program still is for college students to meet with their fifth- or sixth-grade counterpart once a week, Garritt initiated themed celebrations to keep things lively.

Some of these events included a kick-off party to get the college and elementary students acquainted, a holiday party to instill the spirit of giving by making cards for the troops, and a healthy heart Valentine's Day celebration to address eating disorders and body image.

Perhaps the year's biggest event, however, is the upcoming end-of-the-year celebration that entails the 6th grade students participating in a simulated college graduation to further create not only an excitement about higher education, but to assure the students that college is a possibility no matter what their background or financial situation.

"A big thing for these kids, I think, is knowing that they do have a chance [of attending college] because a lot of them don't realize that," said Terry. "We really want to let them know that there are ways of working things out so that they get excited for the future."

Both Garritt and Terry agreed that while the hour-a-week commitment to be a mentor is feasible for the average college student, it is an obligation that, if ignored, can have a lasting negative impact.

"My biggest issue is always to stress the commitment level, because if the mentors miss a week, their student is crying and thinking that their mentor doesn't like them," said Garritt. "If someone misses a week or two at a time, I usually try to find another mentor."

The mentors made su
stress that regardless of
mitment, however, thei
volvement with the progra
just as beneficial for them
is for the students.

"I know that I'm bus
the time and to go over
and just sit down and be
to breathe and talk to a
is just great," said Terry.
can see the excitement on
faces when you walk in, a
feeling like that can't be c
pared to much else."

Marx brother finds home on Neshobe

Continued from page 1

Island offered so much that he frequently engaged in acts that scared even the most innocent of fisherman and daytime picnickers away from its shores.

There are several publications that describe how Marx would strip naked, cake his body in mud, and place a red wig on his head as he ran out of the woods screaming and chanting.

Stebbins wrote, "The tourists quickly grabbed their things and made a mad dash for their boat and the mainland. Marx solved the snooping problem...but rumors became more numerous."

Roselyn Rogers owns the Trak-In and Restaurant on Route 30, due west of the island. The little bay in which it rests was once the launching pad for visitors going to the island. She remembers speaking with a man by the name of George Roberts, who worked at the hotel as young man in the 1930s. Roberts would escort the prestigious guests to from the island, and cater to their every need. Rogers remembers one of Roberts' favorite stories.

One summer day, as Marx was waiting to cross the lake to the island, a few young ladies inched closer and closer to him, with one holding a piece of paper and a pen. She wanted his autograph. Roberts watched as Marx sat on the boat in complete silence, sporting his usual goofy grin. When the young, well endowed girl finally asked for his signature, Marx acted quickly. "Harpo stood up, snatched the piece of paper from the girl, and slapped it flat across her breasts," said Rogers, recalling the story as it was once told to her. "He signed his name and turned around."

The girl and her friends stood speechless and shocked on the shore as Roberts and Marx floated away. Not a word was said until they reached their destination.

"Marx still had his stupid looking grin on," says Rogers. "He stepped off the boat, turned to Roberts, and said, 'I bet she remembers that for a while.'"

It was one of the few times that Roberts ever remembers Marx speaking, and he still tells the story years after it happened.

Alexander Woollcott died of a heart attack in 1943. The island was managed by a few of his closest friends until it was sold in 1964. In 1999, the island was sold once again to Jerry Brown from Argyle, N.Y. The restorations that have been made since, claims Rogers, are phenomenal.

The island consists of two buildings. One building, known as the Stone House, is the main living quarters for the inhabitants. The other is known as the Clubhouse, and was built by Woollcott in the early 1930's. After his death, the Clubhouse remained unused and completely untouched until the arrival of the Brown family. A large amount of time and money went into the restoration of the old Clubhouse in order to keep the structure from crumbling to the ground.

Three summers ago, a group of Castleton residents were invited for an open house on the island. The event was run by the Castleton Public Library and catered by Rogers. She recalls that walking into the Clubhouse was like walking back in time.

An old piano, one that she had heard talk of before, remained in tact and in mint condition. All of Woollcott's prized possessions – books, magazines, his rocking chair, and hand-written letters – had survived many lonely years. A LIFE magazine rested on a wooden table. On the cover was a chubby man with a stern look and round-rimmed eyeglasses – Alexander Woollcott himself. His head was framed by a window identical to one across the room. The photograph had been taken in that very room.

That night, several visitors dressed up like the famous men and women who once flocked to Neshobe Island. A young boy working for Rogers came up to her and whispered, "That man over there by the window is the same guy on the cover of the magazine," pointing to a hefty man wearing a nice suit and the same style of round-rimmed glasses.

Rogers replied, "Go look at the date of that magazine."

It was from the 1920's.

The island may seem desolate and lonely and uninhabited. And often, myths are mixed with the reality of the past, creating an aura of mysterious wonder. But a lot of history and many memories still reside on that little lump of slate and soil, untouched for years, but alive nonetheless.

Sunnier skies may awai
post grads in job marke

Continued from page 1

happen?

"My job here at Castleton is to help students identify their ideas and help them get there," she said.

The weakened U.S. economy also doesn't seem to worry her. When asked whether she fears that it will affect students' futures, Carruthers was casual in her response.

"This is not my first recession. Been there, done that," she said. "It's a bad time for people my age, but not such a bad time for students. (They're) cheaper."

"I am worried that there is going to be a part-time job shortage for students, because the adults that have been laid off are going to be applying to those places like McDonalds," she said.

Luckily though, so many boomers are retiring from higher-level jobs that Carruthers believes there isn't going to be physically enough bodies to fill them.

She said that before Christmas break, a senior came into her office and was stressing out considerably. She wanted to do something involving Spanish, but wanted a job located in Rutland.

"I love seeing students come in stressed out and then who leave with a smile on their face and a list of things to do," she said. Carruthers then leads the student to several places in search of a job, adding "the best place to start is to ask for information meetings."

The girl found what sh
was looking for, and the
place hired her right on t
spot. She will be travelin
South America next year.

Other students express
worry as well, but also ha
similar expectations as C
ruthers.

"I am nervous about th
shitty economy of course.
But with my major being
accounting, there is still a
demand for us. So I am n
necessarily worried," said
CSC senior Kirsten Holmgren.

Dave Trottier, who is graduating in May with Holmgren, shared a simila
response.

"I am going to try to fi
a job within the criminal
justice field. I'm not wor-
ried though, because the
poor economy gives me jo
security. When the econo
is bad, crime goes up so th
need for law enforcement
ficers increases," he said.

Carruthers urges studen
to jump on an internship a
soon as possible, saying it
very important for student
to get out there and know
people. Otherwise, she tell
students simply not to stre
and be proactive because
there are jobs still out there

"People are still calling
register for career fairs and
they are still posting jobs o
our Castleton online conne
tions," Carruthers said with
confidence. "We still have
many people who are com-
ing to look for our students

Campus Quips

Sarah Kenney

Question:
How do you like to spend
r Sundays?

Graham Monroe

Chill out.. longboard.
e past couple of months
e been playing hockey on
ndays.

Kelsey LaPoint

I like to do laundry, sleep
and workout.

Melissa Suchan

Drink, Sunday Funday

Yukio Takahashi

I like to nifty knit.. And I
snowboarding.

Adrienne Corey

Go for drives and relax
d homework.

Spartan staff takes bite out of Big Apple

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

Bright lights, busy streets, and the scents of warm deli goodies welcomed a handful of Castleton students to New York City on March 14-16, as they ventured into the Big Apple for a college media and journalism conference.

The students, all staff members of the Castleton Spartan newspaper, piled into a van and left Castleton at the crack of dawn on March 14, accompanied by Journalism Professor David Blow, and drove off to the three-day conference set in the heart of Times Square.

Castleton senior Courtney Bonoyer was one of three students who had never been to the city prior to the trip, and was in complete awe of the scene.

"It was an amazing experience," Bonoyer said. "There is so much to do, even late at night. It was awesome to be around people who were also involved in journalism."

The conference took place in the center of Times Square at the Marriot Marquis hotel and convention center. The students attended a minimum of five, hour-long sessions, which provided insightful information about the always-changing media world.

Professor Blow's favorite session was one of the keynote events, which was a 90-minute long session by journalist Byron Pitts.

"I loved his message of hard work and desire. He was illiterate until he was 12 and one of his college professors told him he should quit school because he was wasting time and money," Blow said. "Now he's working for CBS News."

Junior Molly Fraher, who also attended the trip, enjoyed the "finding work in the media" session.

"The whole trip was a very eye-opening, good experience," Fraher said. "But this session in particular was very handy for help getting a job after we graduate."

The sessions ran throughout the day, ranging from a variety of focuses and topics. Several sessions discussed the different types of media, and how it is extremely important for aspiring journalists to be knowledgeable about each style in order to succeed.

Castleton junior Robert Burge, who serves as photographer and layout editor for The Spartan, especially liked the typography session, an underrated aspect of design.

Burge had also never been to the city and he basked in his glory taking countless pictures of the beauty before him.

Besides attending these sessions though, there was certainly more to the experience.

"I like getting to know the students differently than in the classroom," Blow said. "The trip is two-fold. A lot of the sessions are pretty beneficial and they show journalism in different voices. And also, students get to see NYC. Some have never been before, and it's a completely different world."

When it was finally time to leave, there was an evident ease among the group. And, even after Courtney Bonoyer realized she had left her cellular phone back in the hotel room, exposing a brief unease, before being told the hotel had found it and would ship it back to her.

But overall, the trip left the students full of new ideas and memories.

"It was a good social experience," Castleton Spartan Managing Editor Terry Badman said. "Everybody will have good chummy memories . . . and it also (created) a greater sense of camaraderie."

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

From the hills to New York City

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Real Big Fish performs live at Killington during the U.S Grand Prix.

DAVID BLOW / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Spartan staff tackles Times Square.

SOUNDING OFF

The Place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown:
8 events to go

COMING EVENTS

Calico Winds
7:30 pm, Wed. March 25, Casella Theater
Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith: In Full Court Quest
12:30 pm, Thu. March 26, Casella Theater
Kite Runner Workshop
1 pm, Wed April 8, Jeffords Lecture Hall
Kite Runner Dramatic Performance
7 pm, Wed April 8, Casella Theater

QUOTABLE LINES

Flamenco Vivo:
"The flamenco movements conveyed a sense of happiness as well as sorrow and romance." –Stephanie Terry

Keynote: An Unreasonable Man. Favorite quote:
"Voting for Nader is like telling a fourteen-year-old about sex. You're feeling good for about five minutes, then you deal with the consequences" –Michael Moore, quote chosen by Alex Powers

SPORTS

Swinging for repeat

By John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College baseball team has its work cut out for it as the Spartans get ready to defend their North Atlantic Conference title this season, according to coach Ted Shipley.

The team, which went 9-1 in the NAC last season, has a good combination of players, boasting a 32-man roster of 21 returning players and 12 new players.

Even though the team's roster includes an overwhelming number of returners, Shipley says the team's biggest weakness is lack of experience.

"We have quite a few players that have not played enough baseball in their lives to be ready and able to compete initially successfully at this level," he said. "Through hard work and time, those weaknesses will fade away."

Despite the inexperience, the Spartans are the team to beat, according to the other NAC coaches. The Spartans ranked first in the preseason poll with four out of the five first-place votes. The poll, though, is something Shipley doesn't pay attention to at all.

"All coaches realize that where you were picked is nothing more than a popularity contest. All games and how we do will be directly related to actually playing," he said. "It's nice for people to think we are good, but we have a lot of work to do before we are good, so rankings or predictions mean very little."

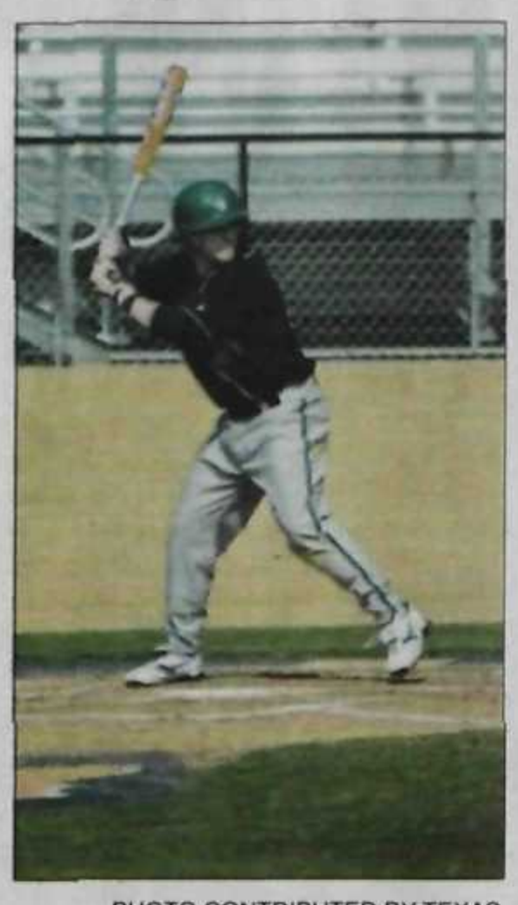


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TEXAS TYLERS COLLEGE

Dave Raczka takes a cut in Texas.

With the returning Spartan offense and pitching staff, it is no wonder the team was picked to repeat as NAC champions.

The Spartans have four players returning who had a batting average of .300 or better last season, including sophomore Dan Conley, who hit .376 with 1 homerun and 35 RBI.

The rotation looks just as good as the offense, with Rob Turner and Mathew Tuthill, who both had an ERA under 400, returning to lead the staff.

Even with a potent offense and a tough rotation, the Spartans' lack of experience may be showing already because they are just 1-6 so far in nonconference games this season. The team has been playing games against slightly more competitive teams such as Texas-Tyler, the 12th-ranked team in the country.

"We've struggled to play consistent," Shipley said. "We've played very good teams, and we are fairly inexperienced at this point. We have a lot of work to do, and that is exactly what the early games are showing, and it is reflected in our team record."

The Spartans will look to get back to their winning ways when they begin their NAC play with an away doubleheader against Husson University on March 28.

"I'm already excited. Each game is special and that's the way we approach things," Shipley said.

Life after the NCAA tournament

Rob Doran
Contributing Writer

The winter sports season has come and gone. Though the cold weather is still lingering, the bright smiles of Castleton's newest champions will surely warm the air.

The Castleton women's basketball team captured the North Atlantic Conference championship with a couple of big upset wins against Johnson St., Maine-Farmington and Husson in recent weeks. With those wins, the Spartans received their first-ever invitation to the NCAA Division III tournament.

In their first-round matchup against Bowdoin College, the

Continued on page 6. . .

Women's lacrosse confident

By Annie Hartman
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College women's lacrosse team is prepared to make its mark in the New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance Conference this season.

The Castleton lacrosse team concluded the 2008 season with a 10-8 overall record and a number-two seed in the Newla conference tournament. Their hopes of a conference title were dashed, though, in the championship game against top-seeded Bridgewater State College.

"We made great strides from my first year coaching," said head coach, Tammy Landon. "Last year was the best season to date for the women's lacrosse program." But Landon is not dwelling on the past.

"This year looks to be exciting," she said.

The team is loaded with returning players, including six seniors whom Landon calls "definite leaders" of the program.

Among the returning players are DeeDee Schroeder and Marie VanDerKar, two of the three Spartans who made the 2008 All-Conference First Team. The Spartan All-Conference Second Team pick, senior, Nicole Adams, is also returning. Castleton will introduce three freshmen and two transfer students to the program this season, as well.

Landon believes that they will be a great addition to the team. Soggy, cold weather has kept the lacrosse team in the gym, but preseason scrimmages against both Mt. Holyoke College and Roger Williams University gave the team some playing time on the field.

"I saw a lot of good things [in those games]," Landon said.

Getting to the playoffs is the number one priority for the Spartans. Their close second priority is a win over Bridgewater State. "Our goal is to close the gap between us and Bridgewater," said Landon.

A top seed is also on the to-do list for the Spartans, as is a conference title.

"We will compete hard, win games, and we should be successful," Landon said optimistically. "Last year was the first time we made it to the finals. The next step is to win the finals."

The Spartans will host their first home game of the season on Friday, March 27, when they take on Green Mountain College.

"We're anxious and ready and excited," Landon said.

Spartans ready for fresh start

By John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College softball team is going to have a fresh start this season under new head coach John Werner.

The team, which lost in the North Atlantic Conference quarterfinal game for the second year in a row last season, has a ton of youth. It showcases a 20-player roster of 16 freshmen and sophomores and only four upperclassmen. Just eight players from last season are returning.

With all of the new players coming into the program, the Spartans find themselves with plenty positions to fill.

"Most positions are still up for grabs, but it would appear that we will have new players at [shortstop], catcher, and one or two outfield spots," said Werner.

First base is also a position still in question. The competition is taking place among Sarah Flore, Julie Benzenberg and Lindsay Carlton.

Freshmen Lydia McPherson and Hannah Greene are looking to fill positions too. McPherson is slated to fill the vacancy at shortstop at some point while Greene is destined for the outfield.

One of the Spartans' biggest voids is behind the plate. Three freshmen—Bridget Dusha, Stephanie Wright and Ashley Chase—are competing for the opening.

Because of all of the young players, Werner will be counting on the returning veteran players to step up big.

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Returning captain Alicia Zraunig lays down a bunt against M.E/Farmington on April 24th of last season.

"Alicia [Zraunig], as a returning captain, will need to have a big year," Werner said. "Tosha [Whittemore] and Hilary [Bemis] on the mound also will be very important."

Tosha Whittemore and Bemis, a junior who hasn't pitched since high school, will be Werner's Number 1 and 2 starters this season, while Maggie Mercy and Whitney Grassley will get spot starts and be used out of the bullpen.

One veteran who will be a key to Spartan success is sophomore outfielder Siobhan Whittemore, who showed promise in the four games she played in last season, going 3-for-9 at the plate with an RBI and two walks. The Spartans will count on Whittemore to have similar offensive numbers for the entire season.

The Spartans will certainly have their work cut out for them to make a run at the NAC title—Castleton was picked fourth in the preseason coaches' poll—but Whittemore is confident that the Spartans will be more competitive than last season.

"I believe that this year we will definitely do a lot better than last year," she said. "We have a lot of new players who have a lot of talent and bring a lot to the team, and even the returners are ready and trying harder to have a better season."

Spartan Lax welcomes new faces

By Chadwick Cioffi
CastletonSpartan

With the losses of seniors Jimmy VanDerKar and Brett Quillia, the Spartan lacrosse team had some holes to fill for this season. The additions of defensive coach Brian Kingsbury and freshmen Kevin McCarthy and Dave DeGhetto should help fill the void, according to head coach Dave Wiezalis.

"He has a tremendous amount of wealth in coaching knowledge in the defensive end," Wiezalis said of Kingsbury. "He has a lot to bring, a lot to share. It's just a matter of how much the guys can absorb."

Junior attackman Korey Counos praised Kingsbury as well.

"It's finally starting. Our defense is starting to show up because of Kingsbury," said Counos. "He brings a lot of vocals to the team. We need a vocal leader. If we keep working at it, and listen to our coaches, we have a very good shot at the conference title this year."

Wiezalis said Kingsbury is part of the answer to defeating Mount Ida in the conference tournament. Another part of the answer is attackman McCarthy.

"Kevin McCarthy, by far, is probably one of our top freshmen," Wiezalis said. "He has already proven himself on the field to be an assist leader, as well as a points and goal leader. He just has the skills to get immediate attention."

McCarthy said his focus is to contribute to the team as much as he can this season, whatever he can do to help win. He noted the change of game compared to high school, saying that it is bigger, faster and stronger. He added that he thinks the team is looking better in every game.

Junior midfielder and last season's goal leader, Mike Martinez, applauded McCarthy's start to the season.

"I had four goals, and I think he had assists on two or three of my goals," Martinez said. "He's a freshman and a starting attackman. He's a really good player. I've had chemistry with him since day one."

Last season the attack was saw flashes of brilliance by Mike DelDotto, and Phil Barry. The midfield was a mixture of Jake Rick snagging the ground balls left over from Van Der Kar, and Martinez finding his corner and embarrassing opposing goaltenders. Another major factor to the Spartans this season is going to be senior defensemen Jason Jakimer and Patrick Duffy. The core of this defensive group is senior goaltender Mike Mamunes.

"Our goal is to keep all the shots on the outside," said Mamunes. "Coach expects me and Dave [DeGhetto] to stop all those shots."

The Spartans were 6-1 in conference play last season, and have already opened up this season with a 1-0 record in the conference, 1-2 overall. Mount Ida rolls into town on March 28, an early matchup of what could be this year's conference championship contenders.

The Rooster

Steve McNulty

It's been several years si
my passion for sports was a
peak. I can remember be
a little kid absolutely infa
ated with stars like Mich
Jordan, Ken Griffey Jr.
Emmit Smith. I can reme
ber the MLB players' str
of 1994 and explaining to
parents that the New York Y
kees would never go on stri
neither would Griffey or Fr
Thomas. I obviously dic
know how strikes worked.

That was a time of absol
innocence, when ballpl
ers were gods and Jordan
Zeus. I didn't know about s
roids, insider gambling or
arrest records of my idols. I
not sure if sports have chang
or if I've just gotten older a
less naïve, but it just does
seem the same anymore. I c
only imagine what a writt
letter to my favorite athle
would look like if I were
years-old again.

Dear Superstar Athletes,

*You guys are awesome, a
I want to be just like you som
day. A-Rod, you're my favo
ite. But my mom says you ne
to get off the juice or else yo
wiener is gonna be smali
than Madonna's. I don't rea
get mom because she gives r
juice everyday.*

*I wish Roger Clemens a
Barry Bonds would cor
back; they are both really goo
at baseball. Mr. Clemens, r
dad says that you should st
putting so many needles
your butt, but the doctor p
one in mine just the other da
so I wouldn't worry about
I like you Mr. Bonds becau
you remind me of my favori
cartoon, Pinky and the Brai
You look like the Brain. You'
head is so big!! It's funny.*

*I like Plaxico Burress to
I watch the Giants every Sun
day with my uncle Rick. Wher
have you been, Plaxico? Ric
said you shot yourself with
gun. Didn't you ever go to
hunter's safety course? Yo
should never point your gun
at people, and always keep th
safety on. It seems like yo
guys have problems with gun
a lot. How do you ever kill
deer if you're always shootin
each other? Maybe you don
like venison.*

*Finally, to my favorite tea
in the world, the New York Yan
kees!! I won't be coming to an
games this summer. My dad
says tickets are too expensiv
because you guys are mone
hungry pigs. I told him tha
you guys would play for free i
you could. Right? Anyways
don't worry. I'm saving ever
allowance I get so I can buy my
own tickets. See you guys wher
I'm much older, and just don'
give a crap anymore.*

Sincerely,

Your Biggest Fan.

Don't get me wrong, I still
love professional sports. I'm
just tired of the baggage that
comes along with the games.
I'm so tired of hearing about
drugs, cheaters, contract dis-
putes, Terrell Owens (and
his jackass of an agent, Drew
Rosenhaus) and every athlete
who wants his cut without
earning it first.

If I had an 8-year-old, I'd
have him stuck in front of the
TV for as many of these NCAA
basketball tournament games
possible. So far, it's the only
sport that has yet to disappoint
me in my life. Let's just hope
the song remains the same.

Bold prediction: Louisville
bows out early, Michigan St.
and Missouri make runs, and
UNC slips past Syracuse in the
Elite 8.

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

Mariah Phillips

CSC freshman shares dad's plight with Somali pirates

By Eva Kane Leenman
Castleton Spartan

Mariah Phillips grew up hearing stories about pirates. In the back of her mind, she always knew they were there.

"My dad would always tell me and my brother about pirate activities," the 18-year-old Castleton State College graphic design student said. "I knew they were out there in small boats. I just never thought they could overtake a 780-foot cargo boat."

Mariah's father, Richard Phillips, captain of the U.S. ship Maersk Alabama, was taken hostage on April 8 after Somalian pirates attacked the ship.

The ship was on its way to Kenya, with a cargo of food, when it was hijacked.

"I was in a state of shock," Mariah said on Monday. "This is something that happens to other people. Obviously, I am other people."

Richard Phillips, who had been held in a 28-foot lifeboat in the Indian Ocean since his capture, was rescued Sunday by Navy snipers who opened fire, killing three pirates.

Despite the ordeal that she and her family have been through, Mariah sounded calm, collected and of course, very relieved.

She had spent the last "very intense five days" at home in Underhill, Vt. with her mother, Andrea, and her brother, Daniel, 20. She said she is amazed by the energy in her household.

"It's remarkable," Mariah said. "You never know how strong your family can be when something like this happens."

Although the house is quieter now, and they have requested that the media stay

Continued on page 6 ...

Vt. passes gay marriage

Campus poll indicates high percentage of support from Castleton student body

By Laura Olson
Castleton Spartan

The morning of April 7, the verdict was announced: Vermont would legalize same-sex marriage.

The Vermont legislature overruled a veto attempt by Vt. Gov. James Douglas, allowing same-sex couples to marry starting in September.

"I feel this is a huge step," said Castleton physical education instructor Lisa Pleban. "Finally, elected officials have enough common sense to do the right thing and afford basic human rights to committed individuals who wanted no more than equality."

Although Massachusetts paved the way in 2004 as the first state to allow gay and lesbian couples the right to marry, followed later by Connecticut and Iowa, Vermont has arguably been a leading trailblazer in civil and human rights.

In 2000, Vermont became the first state to allow civil unions between same-sex couples, which awarded

Continued on page 6 ...

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Above: Colin Kelly (left), professor Phil Lamy (middle), and Wyatt Andrews (right) colaborate to entertain the crowd. Below: Julian DeFelice pre-hair cut (left) and Tom Hutner (right) jam out on their acoustic guitars.

Pub Night's regular musicians keep the jams flowing each week

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

All the regular players were there, with a few fresh faces to add to the mix. The energy was intensifying with each performance. A fan favorite was in the room and would prove to be the elimax to the night's set list.

Wearing a yellow scarf draped around his shoulders hanging down to his waist, topped off with a black beret, stood CSC Communication professor Robert Waugneux whaling on an acoustic guitar.

The crowd was clapping and chanting "tweet, tweet" where necessary in Wuagneux's cover of Bobby Day's "Rockin' Robin." The zany instructor entranced the audience, made up of both teachers and students, and played three more songs before two of the Pub Night Players took hold of the microphone to wrap things up.

Castleton students Wyatt Andrews and Nicole Adams act as the co-coordinators of the Pub Night Committee. Andrews is a jack-of-all-trades as he plays the role of host, rapper, bassist and guitarist. Adams sings as well as playing guitar, and classmate Colin Kelly rocks a gold Les Paul guitar.

The three students make up only a portion of the Pub Night Players.

Continued on page 5 ...

Active classes in, lectures out

By Molly Fraher
Castleton Spartan

Castleton State College offers its students a wide selection of courses to choose from. There's everything from Script Workshop to Environmental Ethics, Organic Chemistry to Pickleball, but there's always something for everyone.

Regardless of the curriculum, however, the ways in which these lessons are presented to young collegiate minds is what makes all the difference.

A total of 100 Castleton students were selected at random and were asked whether they preferred an active style of teaching or a standard style of lecturing from their instructors.

Of the students surveyed, 69 percent said they preferred the active style of teaching, with lots of classroom discussions and student-teacher interactions. And although the active style requires more class participation, many students said that they learned better when more interactions were involved.

"I like an active style of teaching that's engaging," said senior Mike Mamunes. "If I'm just sitting there getting lectured, I'll zone out."

Of the remaining 31 students, five didn't have a preference at all, and 26 preferred the lecturing style of teaching, which involves more note taking and has less interactions.

"Some days I'm tired and just not in the mood for class discussion," said senior Trishia Fellows. "But other days it's just boring to just have a lecture."

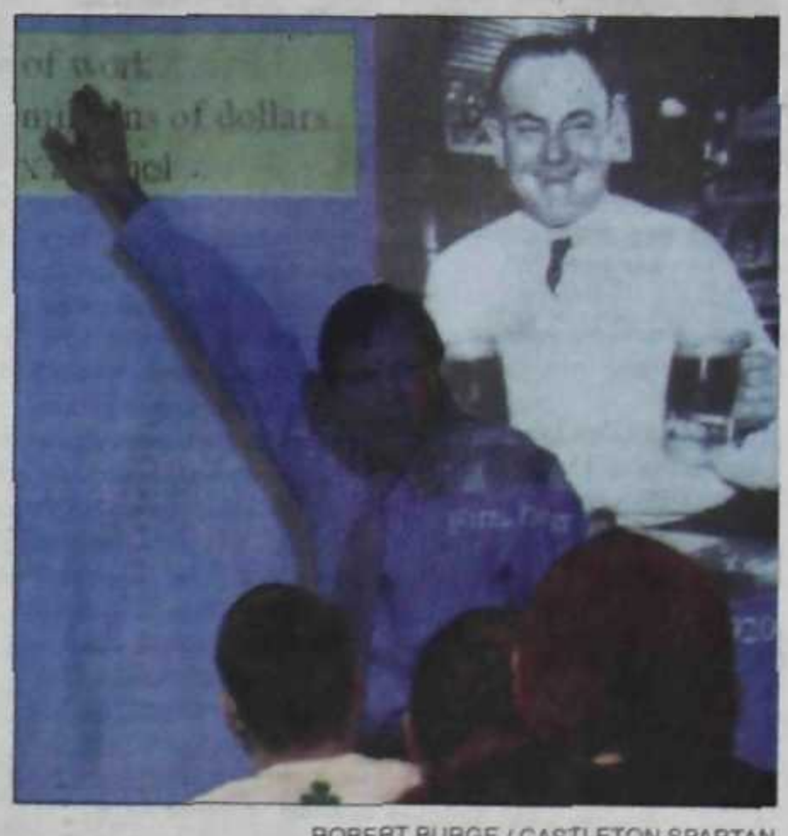
Some classes go above and beyond boring, students said, while others seem to stimulate and create good responses.

Chris Boettcher's Intro to Literature class usually begins each morning sitting in your typical style of rows and columns. Often students will find themselves rearranging their desks into a circle for better classroom discussion. Boettcher not only asks for feedback, but also encourages his students to give suggestions on how to make future classes better.

"If the teacher is enforcing a discussion that the students find boring, then it's pointless and ineffective," said senior Cameron Audia. "Active discussions can be productive, but only if the topic is stimulating."

Journalism professor David Blow tries to stimulate his students by using a conversational approach with his lessons and encourages his students to get to know

Continued on page 6 ...



ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Professor Jonathan Spiro is a favorite at Castleton.

Editorial ▷ Page 2 • News ▷ Page 3-4 • A&E ▷ Page 5 • Front & Back ▷ Page 6 • Campus ▷ Page 7 • Sports ▷ Page 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was a typical Thursday in my world. I didn't have any classes and decided to skip the morning shower. After I returned home from bringing my grandmother to the grocery store and pharmacy, I spent the rest of the morning cleaning house and walking the dogs.

In the afternoon I began to feel a bit tired so I decided to relax with a book. I began to read the document "A Day without Feminism" as I was told to do so for Friday's class. I knew that this would be a good book to grab because not only was it an easy read, but also interesting, and informative, as most of the material is for Women's Studies.

I grabbed my laptop in case I got ambitious to write and headed for my bed. Things were great because my puppy decided to take a nap at the foot of the bed which made the house quiet so that I could concentrate. I began reading. I hadn't gotten very far, actually only three paragraphs into it when BAM! I became freaked out when I read the following quote on page 170.

"With the dawn of not just a new century but a millennium, people are looking back and taking stock of feminism. Do we need new strategies? Is feminism dead? Has society changed so much that the idea of a feminist movement is obsolete? For us, the only way to answer these questions is to imagine what our lives would have been if the women's movement had never happened and the conditions for women had remained as they were in the year of our births?"

(Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "A Day without Feminism, 2000.")

I read this quote over and over again. The part that really struck me was "…imagine what our lives would have been if the women's movement had never happened…" WOW! I began to think. This is the year 2009 and I am 21 years old. I am going to be getting a B.A. in a month from a co-ed Liberal Arts College.

I am free. I can vote. I can wear whatever I want to whether it be short skirts, long dresses, jeans, shorts, flip flops, tank tops, sweatshirts, or even male clothes. I went to the grocery store and pharmacy this morning in my pajamas without having had a shower or my hair done. I don't have to do all of the domestic chores, but I can if I choose to. I can run for local, state, or government office. I can come and go when and if I please. I can rent a car. I can work. I can take birth control.

I can, I can, I can… The list goes on and on.

If I was 21 before 1920, I would not have been allowed to vote. I would have had to follow the laws under a system of men in which I had no say. If it were the 1930s, around the time of the Great Depression, I would be discouraged from being in the workforce. Society would view me as taking jobs away from men. If I was alive in the 1950s and I was married, I would have to look beautiful all the time.

I would have to make sure that I looked beautiful before my husband went to work because the last thought of me in his head needed to be a good one. If it wasn't, and he pursued another beautiful woman, it would be my fault. I would not have been able to go to the grocery store in the manner that I did this morning.

While there is so much that I am able to do, conquer, and accomplish, there are also some things that I can't do. I can't travel alone to certain areas and feel completely safe. I can't rest assured that everyone will be treated equal based on their sex, race, class, or gender, even though there are anti-discrimination laws. Humans are so prejudice and postjudice that I am not sure this will ever happen, but it would be nice.

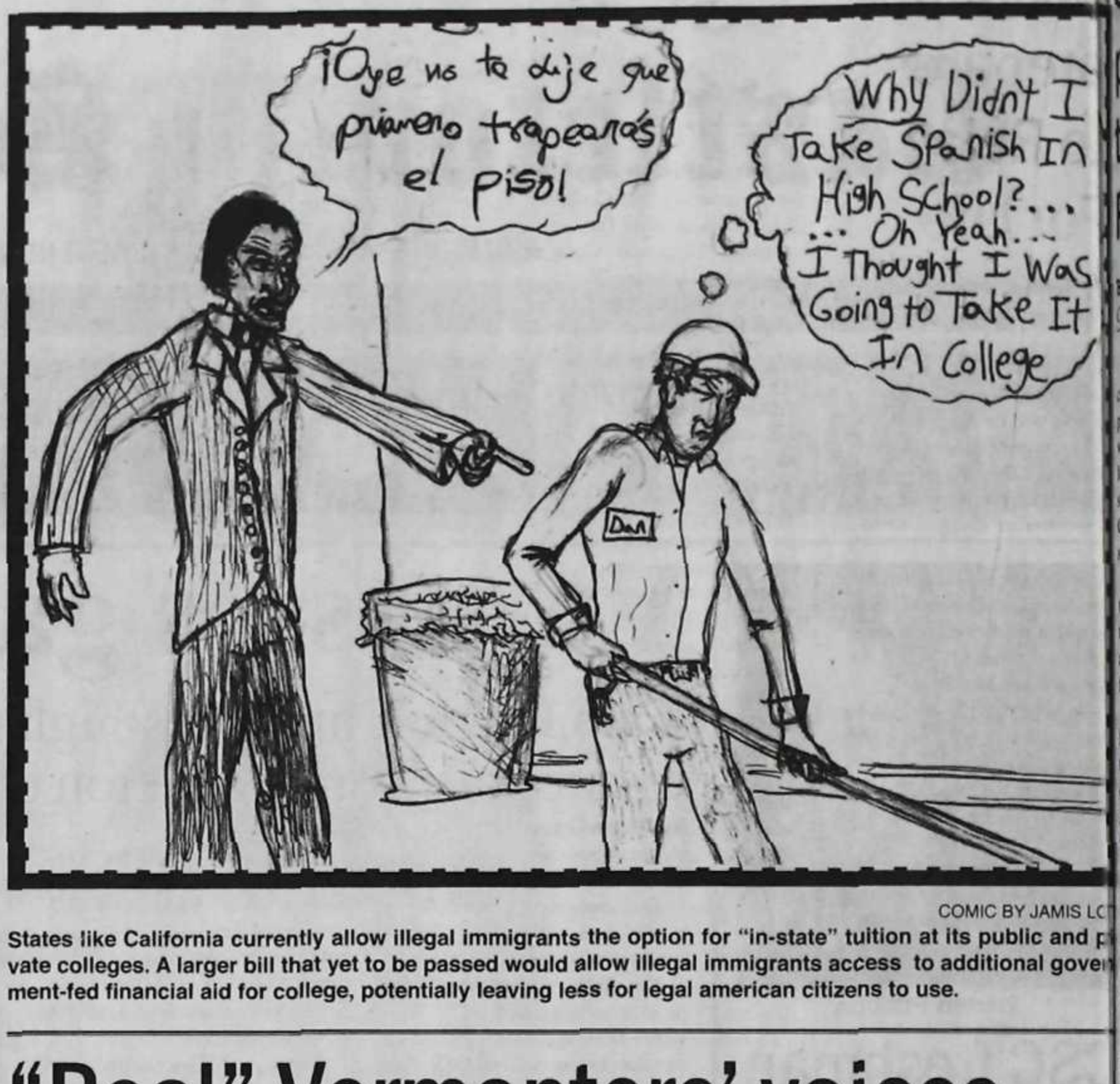
That is why I believe that it is very important to act upon our fears and worries and hopes with the intention that future will change. I would like to say that I had a beneficial impact on future generations, just as activists in the feminist movement have had a positive impact on my life.

EVERYONE is affected by the feminist movement in some way whether it is direct or indirect. Males, females, minorities, majorities, students, teachers, factory workers, executives… we are all a product of this movement. The thought of where I would be without the feminist movement and the courageous activists within it scares me.

I live in a world where I have freedom. I have choice. I have value outside of the home. I don't have to take a shower if I don't want to. If I have children, I can take them to daycare and the brunt of the child raising will not be completely my responsibility. I am allowed to attend college, and not support my husband while he gets an education. It is too easy to forget the people in the past that fought for our rights.

We need to remember them as individuals, institutions, and society as a whole. Only then will we realize what a big deal it is and hopefully create a more equal and inclusive world.

- Sierra Waite


¡Oye no te dije que pisaras el piso!
Why Didn't I Take Spanish In High School?... ... Oh Yeah... I Thought I Was Going to Take It In College
Dad

COMIC BY JAMIS LO

States like California currently allow illegal immigrants the option for "in-state" tuition at its public and p vate colleges. A larger bill that yet to be passed would allow illegal immigrants access to additional gover ment-fed financial aid for college, potentially leaving less for legal american citizens to use.

"Real" Vermonters' voices heard in gay marriage debate

The world is still spinning.

The Earth didn't split down the center and swallow up mankind into a fiery abyss of ash and brimstone. An asteroid didn't plummet into the White House, and the world's nukes didn't simultaneously explode, unleashing a planet-killing nuclear winter.

Last week, Vermont legalized gay marriage – and the world's still spinning.

Vermont became the fourth state in the country to pass such a bill, following in the footsteps of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa. And even though the gay marriage debate in the halls and chambers of Vermont's capitol has quieted since the law passed, those on the losing side of the debate continue to stir up heated words of protest across the state.

Many Vermonters opposing the legalizing of gay marriage have been crying foul since last week, proclaiming that "real" Vermonters would never let such a thing happen, suggesting that a state-wide vote based solely on public opinion would show the bill's lack of popular support in the state.

Now, the argument is capable of carrying some water. Vermont was once one of the most solidly conservative states in the country. And while Vermont is widely considered a predominantly liberal-leaning state these days, many parts of it are still deeply rooted in old time Vermont conservatism.

It's for that reason that the argument doesn't seem so completely inane. A state-wide vote on the matter of gay marriage would likely result in a much closer vote than the media leads people to suggest.

But if laws in this country were passed based only on popular opinion, some states would still practice racial segregation, while others would still restrict women from working certain jobs based solely on their sex.

The right path to progress isn't always the popular path. History has shown this time and time again. This is why we elect qualified officials to weigh the pros and cons of a situation, and then create laws based on what their reason suggests will be the most successful for the country as a whole.

It's about power: there never is (supposed to be) any one person with too much of it. Even the president can be overridden by the members of Congress. It's an almost perfect failsafe device. This is what separates a democracy from a dictatorship, keeping the power in the hands of the people rather than just one person.

Vermont Gov. James Douglas vetoed a gay marriage bill that had been approved by more than 150 members of the Vermont Congress, those representing various towns and communities across the entire state.

But democracy took action. The will of one man – the governor – was overturned by the larger combined efforts of Vermont's elected officials, chosen by its people.

So in reality, passing gay marriage through the legislature – through the elected voices of the people – rather than in a state's Supreme Court behind closed doors (like in previous states to allow gay marriage), sort of stands as a testament to the upside of democracy.

So the idea that the people of Vermont had no say in the matter holds little weight, when it's dissected properly, that is. If anything, they had more say than most, as the state passed the bill because it was the right thing to do, and not just a Constitutional technicality as in previous states.

The people have spoken: marriage is gay.

Get used to it.

CastletonSpartan.com

OVERHEARD ONLINE @ CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM

Responses to "Sub Wars" from 3/25:

"I live south of Tucson now and miss Gill's grinders like crazy! I have several each time I visit family in Vermont. The giant hot meat with everything is too die for!!"

- Helga

"Maxi's Deli used to be at the same site. Their subs were LOADED with meat. I think they used shredded cabbage instead of lettuce. Maybe I'm mixing that up with Jreck's subs in NY state. Cabbage is better."

-Maureen Terry DeForge

Responses to "Did cops overreact?" from 3/25:

"It is very sad to me that this story is so one sided. as someone who knows exactly what did happen, it is very unfortunaate that this story got published. Maybe next time, you should do a litle more investigating of the WHOLE story before creating all of this negative slander that is completely biased. This story was written by a friend of the "victim". Of course they think it is wrong. What people don't know is the back story that led up to the incident, which is also portrayed in an incrfedibly biased manner. Again, I am so disappointed with this story, only because I know what really happened and PS did absolutely nothing wrong."

- A College Student

"I saw this thing play out too. The only thing is I don't believe it's as biased as you might think 'A college student.' It was in the editorial section for starters, meaning the writer had to take a stance on the matter. If PS didn't do anything wrong perhaps YOU should look deeper. Why aren't we fining students for exiting through a window, the cops had no right to be there and that's on PS. Also I would challenge you to find a reporter on this campus that isn't friends with who this happened to. I know the 'victim' pretty well and he's probably your friend too, so don't be such a hypocrite. And as far as the incident before hand, how could it have been covered in a biased way if it was only referenced. Maybe you should just think before you press your fingers to the keyboard, you'll probably come off a little smarter next time."

-Another Student

Responses to "Job hunting may be easier than expected" from 3/25:

"As long as people can actually retire. I know people who will have to put off retirement, because they lost so much money in their 401K in the past year. "

-Andrea

"Hey everyone I'm glad you are so optimistic about job opportunites. It sounds like you think the "boomers" are going to be able to retire. But guess what? This boomer is going to have to get another job Flipping Burgers just to pay for his daughters college tuition."

-Tom

Castleton Spartan
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Castleton prepares to Relay For Life

By Jenna Charbonneau
Castleton Spartan

According to relayforlife.com, "One in every three people will be diagnosed with a type of cancer in their lifetime." This is a powerful statistic that some students at Castleton are deciding to do something about.

Relay For Life is a part of the American Cancer Association that works with groups around the nation towards the fight against cancer.

In hopes of making a difference, a relay is going to be taking place on the Castleton campus on the evening of April 18 and 19 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"People form teams to fundraise with before the relay and then to walk with on the night of the relay," said Hillary Greenfield, a member of the Relay For Life committee.

Each team member pays a minimum of $15 to start and then raises as much as they can to reach their personal goal.

Some of you might remember last year's relay, when the campus was "painted purple" with purple bows and signs representing cancer awareness.

Nicole Parker, a junior at Castleton, is the head chair and organizer for this year's event.

"Our goal is $250,000," said Parker when talking about how much money she wants to be raised.

"So far we have 20 teams up from last year."

Parker earlier this year had gathered a 10-member group of students to be a part of the relay for life committee for the Castleton, Fair Haven, and Poultney area.

Each member holds a different position that they are responsible for such as recruiters, event organizers, and entertainment organizers.

Heather Spain was a committee member from last year's relay and shows passion again this year by taking on many responsibilities and trying to get people involved.

"We need a lot of involvement from students and faculty," Spain said. "That's what makes Castleton a community."

Music, food, and several competitions are going to be provided for people who attend the 12-hour fundraiser.

Each group who joins the relay online will have their own site set up with their team name and activities of their choice.

This year has been a different kind of challenge in getting things organized for the relay due to all the construction on campus and working with a new area coordinator. With the renovations the committee has had to relocate where the relay is going to take place.

The team just recently decided to hold the relay and events on the lawn in front of Woodruff Hall using the Fine Arts Center for indoor accommodations.

Many members hope this won't keep people from attending the event.

"The relay is a great fundraiser for a good cause," Greenfield said. "It is something that can be a lot of fun and can be a memorable experience."

If you would like to take part in Castleton's Relay For Life you can join or form a team online at www.relayforlife.com.

You can also contact Castleton's head chair on the committee at nicole.parker@castleton.edu.

CSC celebrates with young graduates

By Annie Hartman
Castleton Spartan

The audience rose from their seats as the Castleton State College Wind Ensemble began "Pomp and Circumstance.' Castleton President David Wolk led the procession of graduates down the aisle of Castleton's Casella Theater. But the students who followed Wolk's lead donned red caps instead of the traditional Spartan green - and not a single graduate was over the age of 13.

The ceremony, a prelude to the commencement exercises that will take place at the college in another month, was an honorary ceremony for all participants in Castleton State College's mentoring program. Students in 4th- through 6th-grade at Castleton Elementary School have been involved the yearlong program where they are given a mentor; either a student or staff member of CSC.

The program allows college students to connect with the Castleton community and more importantly, kids within Castleton. It also serves an encouragement for elementary students to act upon their goals and dreams and to pursue higher education.

The 135 elementary students were titled the college graduates of 2019, 2020, and 2021, titles they sported on top of their graduation caps.

The theme of the ceremony was undoubtedly to reach for the stars and provided several words of encouragement for the youngsters that emphasized dreams are possible to achieve.

Castleton Family Health Center Pediatrician Dr. Louis Bauzo was the keynote speaker for the event. Bauzo told the students of the elementary school and the college, about the obstacles he encountered in his own life.

Bauzo, who was encouraged by a teacher, decided he wanted to be a doctor when he was just 12 years old; an unlikely future for a young man who's parents did not complete elementary school.

"I didn't want to be poor anymore," he told the audience.

STEVE MCNULTY / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Area Coordinator Dan Gardener (right) congradulates a graduate of the Castleton mentoring program.

Growing up speaking little English after moving to Boston from Puerto Rico and his poor way of life were not the only obstacles standing in Bauzo's path. Bauzo leveled with students about drug use that went on in the housing projects in Boston where he lived and he pleaded with the elementary students not to turn to drugs.

The pediatrician told of how though the cards were stacked against him, he prevailed and succeeded. He encouraged students to start good habits, stay away from the bad, and work hard to achieve goals.

"I am living proof," he said. "That if you guys have a dream and work hard, you can reach that dream."

CSC Student Government Association President-elect Justin Garritt, who also opened the ceremony, spoke to the students, touching on the same goal-reaching theme.

"The journey begins today," Garritt said. "Never give up. Keep pushing forward."

Garritt had some of the Castleton Elementary students stand as he told the audience what their dreams were and addressed them personally and encouraged them to work hard to achieve their goals.

But the Castleton Elementary students were not the only ones honored at Thursday's ceremony. The Castleton State College mentoring program has been in effect at the college for the past four years and is the largest recognized mentoring program in the United States with 97 student members. Most of the members of the mentoring community on the Castleton campus are student athletes.

Wolk stressed this fact in his opening address.

"Student athletes are students first, then athletes," Wolk said.

The CSC Men's Lacrosse team was unable to be at the ceremony because of a game at Johnson State College, but was recognized for having the most members in the mentoring program, a total of 21 players. The team did not forget about their men-tees though.

Garritt played a slide show made by the team for the students with a final message that addressed the group: "Set your goals as high as the stars and never stop shooting for them."

Castleton's Area Coordinator, Dan Gardener was recognized as Most Valuable Mentor. Several times throughout this year, Gardener took his men-tee to Huden Dining Hall for dinner and to Castleton sporting events.

The mentees took their turn to thank the college students by volunteering to get on stage with their mentor and express what they enjoyed about the program and their time with their mentors. Castleton 6th-graders, who will be moving onto middle school in the fall and will no longer be a part of the program, expressed disappointment in their time being over but also shared what a good time they had.

"I'm good at getting into trouble and my mentor got me out of a lot of trouble," said one 6th-grader to an audience that found his remark comical. "I'm disappointed this is my last year," he said.

The ceremony concluded with a chant where all the students stood with their classes and yelled "C.F.E.S. WE ARE THE BEST!" as Castleton Elementary teachers tossed candy into the crowd. The audience was then able to look back on the year with a slideshow.

The Castleton Elementary incoming 4th-graders were then welcomed into the mentor program they will be a part of in the fall of 2009. After the ceremony, students enjoyed cupcakes in the lobby, took final pictures with their mentors, and hopped in front of the Channel 3 News camera, in attendance for the event.

CSC students in the program feel that it is very rewarding.

"It's definitely fun," said freshman, Tabatha Leahy. "It's relaxing after a day of stress and classes. And they appreciate you being there and look up to you.

The program will start up again in October and will run throughout the year, providing several celebrations throughout until next April. The program requires college students to spend one hour once a week with the mentees but several of the CSC students said they liked seeing their mentees outside of the program.

"It's the best part of my week," said CSC freshman Stephanie Terry. "It's really, truly a great program."

CSC groups gather to raise awareness against sexual and domestic violence

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

For Sexual Assault Awareness month, Castleton State College has taken a few big strides in an attempt to help inform and educate Castleton students and community members about domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention.

Several groups have recently been formed on campus, including the CHANGE initiative, 1-in-4 and a survivor support group that meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Old Chapel.

"Our intent is to raise awareness about relationship violence and to allow students to see why women often stay in abusive relationships," said Linda Olson, co-chair of Castleton's CHANGE initiative.

Olson is responsible for organizing educational programs involving sexual assault and relationship violence. The CHANGE initiative at Castleton began last fall and meets once every two weeks to organize activities that aim to raise awareness.

Student coordinates Adalberto Silva and Jaklyn VanManen also help organize CHANGE.

The group just coordinated a relationship with the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter and Miche Chamberlin, who is the executive director at the shelter, attended her first CHANGE meeting last week.

"I want to offer support to faculty, staff, students; basically the whole college population about domestic and sexual violence," Chamberlin said. "We purposefully have a crisis advocate housed at the Castleton Police Department and Fair Haven Police Department who are available to the college community."

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

A domestic violence awareness panel speaks to the castleton community in Herrick Auditorium on April 9.

Chamberlin was invited to Castleton recently for a panel discussion that explored relationship violence. Everyone in attendance wrote down a question to ask the panel members, who then had a chance to respond to them.The panel members included a former domestic violence offender, a police officer, and two survivors of domestic violence.

Chamberlin's goal is to help make students aware that there is an advocate out there who is willing to help them.

Last week the group also sponsored a poetry slam in which sophomore Doug Phillips, a member of 1-in-4, was the emcee.

"Next year 1-in-4 is going to be changed into the Students Advocacy Program. We are currently accepting male and female applications," Phillips said at the event.

To become a peer advocate, students must attend 40 hours of training during September. Credits will also be awarded to its members.

In addition to the program, Chamberlin encourages students to consider taking some time to volunteer at the women's shelter.

"Volunteers can do a lot. We have a volunteer coordinator who assigns you to do grounds work, answer our crisis line, or you can even be trained on how to do crisis advocacy," Chamberlin said.

For more information on the Change Initiative log on to www.castleton.edu/change If you are interested in volunteering at the women's shelter, call (802) 775-6788, or (802) 7753232 for the hotline.

"Fagot" art stirs debate

Karen Trudeau
Contributing Writer

A recent piece of artwork displayed at Castleton State College had some students up in arms.

A bundle of sticks mounted on the wall and titled "fagot" garnered attention and dispute from students who debated whether its controversial title was appropriate to display at a college.

"I found the name annoying," said Myles Mickle, a CSC senior. "I get that the artist was trying to make people think about the two different meanings of the word, but I think that it was more for shock value than anything."

The piece, by artist James Florschutz, is just an unassuming bundle of light tan sticks at first glance. It only proved to be controversial when Mickle and other students noticed the title on a small cream-colored card during a group activity that they were participating in at the Fine Arts Center.

"The piece 'fagot' wasn't meant to have another meaning, but the title can be construed interestingly. A fagot is a bundle of sticks. That's what I knew fagot meant before I learned that it meant homosexual," Florschutz said.

Florschutz feels that the names of many of his pieces have double meanings that people viewing them can take away.

"All art should do that," Florschutz said.

Sally Ann Majoya, a soundings professor at CSC, agreed with Florschutz.

"I think that it's ok because it's art. I feel that sometimes the experience is even enhanced when a piece makes you think instead of just presenting its point at face value."

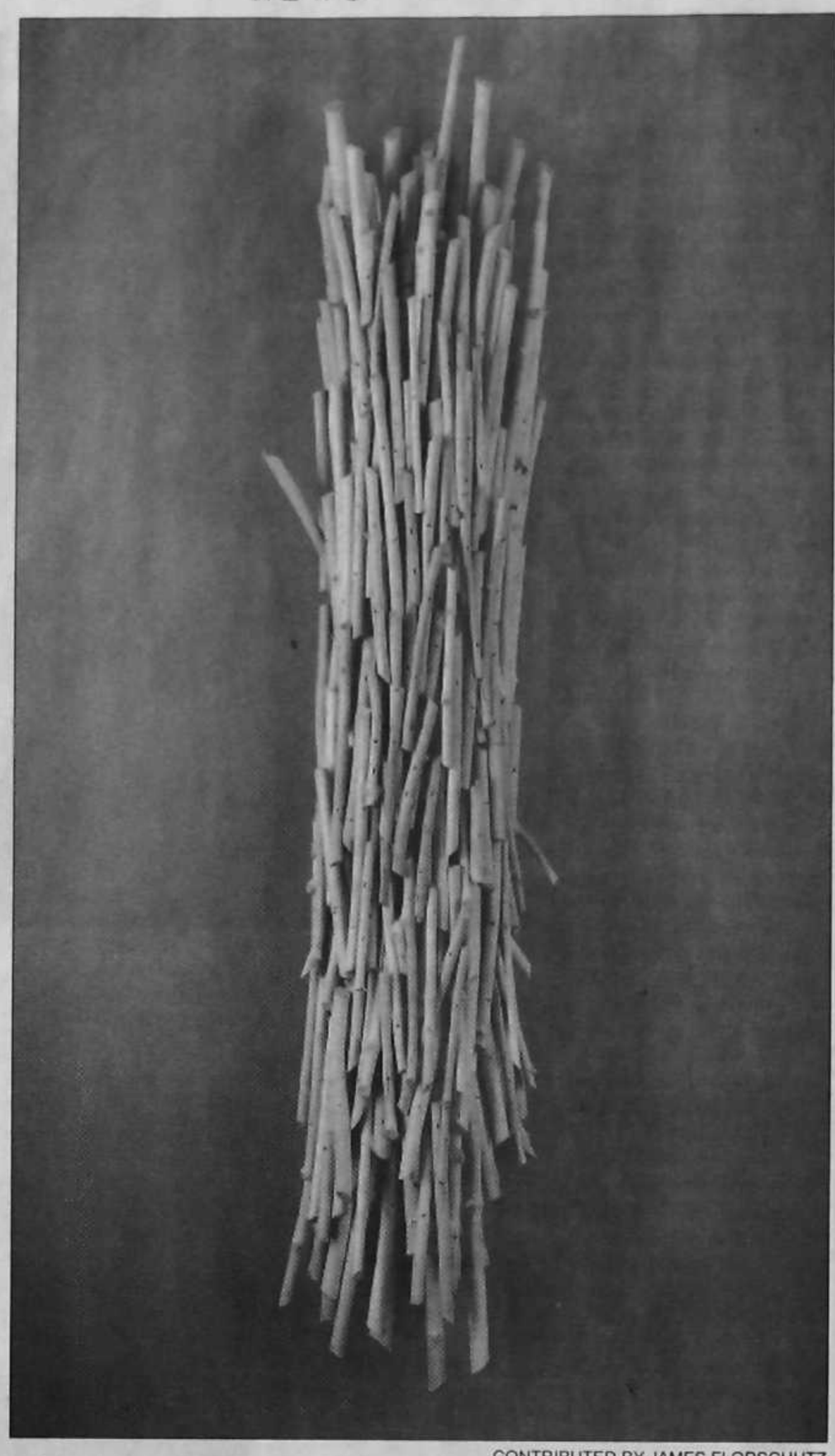
Other sculptures in the exhibit included an interesting mix of objects that often can be surprising.

Many of Florschutz's pieces include such found objects as telephones, wires, and paper that are integrated with all kinds of wood. Only a few pieces in the exhibit, including "fagot," were made of only wood.

"Everything that I use is interesting to me. I don't look at the things I use as objects, I look at them as materials," Florschutz said. "I assign the same value to all of them, whether they are a piece of wood or plastic. All materials have their own language and their own history."

The argument ultimately comes down to whether using language that has suggestive social meaning is appropriate here at Castleton where groups like 1 in 10 strive to protect sexual equality.

The opinion of both Florschutz and Majoya is that the piece "fagot" is meant to educate and to bring attention to a word that has been distorted from its original meaning.



CONTRIBUTED BY JAMES FLORSCHUTZ

Online registration gaining ground

By Jared Haskins
Contributing Writer

Students these days are i
ing up in the registrar's of
patiently waiting their tur
sign up for the next seme
of classes. And for the pe
working within the Stud
Services office, they are
pared for the busiest time
the semester.

But although there are
rently about 2,000 stude
attending Castleton State C
lege, the Student Services
fice is much less hectic t
in prior years because of
magic of online registration

"I remember my freshm
year waiting in lines that sta
just about outside of Woodi
to go and register for classe
said Tim Neary, a senior. "N
you just stay up till midni
and in five minutes you
signed up and the weight
lifted knowing you're all d
with registration."

Lines used to be the nor
but according to Lori Patt
Castleton's registrar, they h
a whole new system that
lows for easier registration a
it kills the lines quickly. C
thing they did was to conde
the whole registration peri
so that freshman didn't have
wait as long.

"I hated registering freshm
year. You got the leftovers
far as classes were concerne
You registered so late that e
erything was full . . . I reme
ber my advisor telling me
have a few backups ready b
cause I probably wouldn't g
into some of my first choice
said junior Bruce Moffit.

Students seem to love t
online registration, but son
advisors worry that studer
will change their courses aft
they sign their card and a
prove them for registration.

"Some advisors don't like
but students can change class
no matter what. The adviso
are there just to point the
in the right direction," Patte
said.

Students, however, love o
line registration because the
can avoid lines and regist
during times when the office
closed.

"I like registering online.
feel I wouldn't have gotten in
some courses if I didn't stay u
till midnight to do it. It give
you kind of an edge on every
one else," said Tom Anderso
a junior this year at Castleton.

During registration in th
last fall, 841 students regis
tered online, while 677 wer
into the office. The percentag
of students registering onlin
is expected to increase, Patte
said.

Even students who didn
endure crazy lines like the on
line process.

"It was real easy going t
the office. I walked right in an
met with someone immediate
ly, but registering online elimi
nates the trip down. I'd prob
ably prefer that," said Kevi
Davis, a senior. " I just wis
you didn't have to be approve
by advisors and eliminate tha
step as well."

As registration began, you
could hear the constant conver
sations among students, asking
each other which classes are
good, which are easy, or if the
professor is tough.

You also saw people car
rying the registration cards
around frantically trying to
schedule that last minute advis
ing appointment hoping to get
approved to register.

But even with online regis
tration, workers in the office
say registration time is still su
per busy.

"If you wanna write some
thing about this office, write
that it's the craziest office
ever," said Administrative As
sistant Tina Betit.

Castleton prepares to get Extreme tonight

By Sarah Kenney
Castleton Spartan

Castleton is holding an event for those students in need of fulfilling two graduation standards, the Quantitative Reasoning and the Information Literacy assessments today.

The dual event, dubbed the Assessment Extreme, will be held tonight and each exam will run back to back. The Assessment Extreme is free of charge and is not limited to just taking tests.

The testing extravaganza will take place in the Stafford Academic Center in room 139. There will be Bingo sponsored by the Student Government Association as well as free food and raffles with prizes.

The evening will kick off with Bingo at 8 p.m. and continue on into the Quantitative Reasoning exam, followed by a break for food. After that there will be a raffle and then end with the Information Literacy Assessment beginning at 11 p.m.

The hope of the event is to make a stressful examination period more enjoyable and relaxing for the students. The atmosphere of this event is more laid back and designed for more fun and to relax the pencil gnawing jitters of a standardized test.

While there are two assessments being held on one day, students are allowed to register for only one of the graduation standards instead of both. Deadline for registration for the even ended yesterday, and the first 100 students registered for the occasion will be receiving free "Assessment Extreme: Are You Spartan Enough?" tee shirt.

The event is designed so that the students are able to kill two birds with one stone. The planning and coordination of taking and passing these graduation requirements can be somewhat of a hassle and now students on the verge of graduation can rest assured that they will have taken both.

"It's a great idea to have them both so you can get them out of the way, and who doesn't love free food?" Susan Katchmar, a CSC junior, said.

The event is the second of its kind in Castleton history. The first annual Assessment Extreme brought in 60 students and the number of registrants this year has already surpassed that total.

CSC's Godlewski, from Rays scout to PS director

By Dave Raczka
Contributing Writer

A decade ago, Bob Godlewski was recruiting future Major League Baseball stars like Rocco Baldelli and Josh Hamilton. These days the Castleton State College public safety director's role is to keep the school safe and orderly, but he still has his hands in baseball.

Godlewski attended Ithaca College, where he had the chance to play collegiate baseball as a pitcher. His pitching ability opened doors to Major League programs around America. For seven years starting in 1996, Godlewski had the chance to be a Major League scout in the New England Region, where he saw many of New England's best players and even players playing today in Major League Baseball.

It was during that period that he got the chance to scout last year's Home Run Derby champion, Josh Hamilton, as well as current Boston Red Sox outfielder Rocco Baldelli.

"Rocco was one of the best players I had ever seen at his age. His bat speed, quickness and love for the game was what made him such a good player and as for Josh, he had a huge bat when he was in development. I have yet to see anybody hit a baseball harder than him," Godlewski said.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Bob Godlewski still finds time to keep his love for baseball alive.

Godlewski started his career scouting in 1996, which then led him back into coaching baseball. He said he always loved coaching more than scouting.

As a coach, he has been very successful coaching at junior colleges in New York and he currently serves as the assistant coach/pitching coach at Castleton State College. He has tallied more than 1,000 wins as a coach and has racked up numerous Junior College Regional and World Series appearances.

But winning isn't what truly drives him.

"Working with the players is something I enjoy to do on an everyday basis. Helping a player better his strengths and weaknesses is always something I love to watch," he said.

Castleton outfielder Dan Conley praised Godlewski and talked about his impact as a coach.

"I started playing for Bob two summers ago and I feel like I have learned the most about the game with Bob. He helped me with my swing and throwing abilities that helped me take my game above what I thought I could," Conley said.

But while his love of baseball remains strong as ever, Godlewski's full time job is to keep the campus safe. When asked what he actually does every day, he quickly shot back, "I keep my students, my teachers and my employee's safe."

He said that involves traffic flow and parking, drug and alcohol situations and virtually anything that might hinder the safety of people on campus.

"Mr. Godlewski is a great guy. I was around the scene when the kid walked the gun on campus and after the situation I found him e-mailing and frantically trying to figure the situation out. After that I noticed numerous alarm tests and safety measures coming onto campus only making me respect what Campus Safety was doing. I respected his decisions to the fullest," said student Ryan Piluski.

Most days, Godlewski can be found in Castleton State College's Public Safety office or in the dugout coaching and cheering on his Spartan baseball team. And he almost always has a smile going, with a joke ready to tell.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

ouglas "Dphresh" Phillips has the crowd roaring with laughter during one of his stand up acts at Pub Night.

Pub Night Players roll out the jams

ontinued from page 1 . . .

he other two players are Sociology ofessor Phil Lamy on drums, and ilosophy professor Brandon Lalor bass.

The show starts out with the Pub ight Players tuning their equipment d beginning to jam out together. Af- r they finished performing, Andrews epped up to the mic to introduce the xt artist for the venue. Castleton phomore Ben Guihan stood at the icrophone holding an acoustic guitar.

"This is an old blues song for new rd times," Guihan told the crowd.

After Guihan's gutsy performance a vintage style sound the crowd eered for the regular until Andrews turned to the stage to introduce the ouse poet.

The wordsmith is part time English ofessor Burnham Holmes. He recites s poetry, receiving an enthusiastic re- onse from each person in the crowd.

"I enjoy it," he said of reading his etry. "It's a different level relation- ip with students. You read your em, I'll read mine, maybe we can ad one together."

Holmes read three poems, one of hich was with senior Emily Littler. he two read a poem that was really st a comedic phone conversation, the udience laughed as Holmes and Lit- r referenced Edgar Allen Poe, and ploded with clapping to the funny finish. The poetry session was over, but a familiar face was brought up on stage to follow up Holmes and Littler.

Julian DeFelice, sporting a new hair- cut, played three songs on an acoustic before Andrews would return to the stage to rap a little bit. His rhymes were filled with interesting diction and had some political messages tied in as well. Lalor provided him with some bass, as Lamy sat at the drum set tap- ping the symbol and beating the drum. When he was done rapping, Andrews was very excited to introduce freshmen newcomers Adam Shappy and Eric Whittaker.

"There's a lot of people coming out of the woodwork to play," Andrews said before pub night began.

Shappy provided the electric gui- tar as his partner in crime, Whittaker, played rhythm on acoustic. Whittaker serenaded the crowd with a Jack John- son-esque voice, singing a song he and Shappy had spent about a week writing. The room of about 45 people cheered as the two finished playing.

"We were nervous, but everyone was chilling so it wasn't that bad," they both said, and seemed sure they would definitely be returning to more pub nights.

Wuagneux played five songs, and got the audience involved in all of them.

"He's a crowd pleaser," said Lamy after Wuagneux's performance. "They get into it."

Andrews agreed, but pointed out pub night doesn't play favorites.

"There's a lot of hidden talent on this campus," he said. "Some people come to see their friends play, the women's lacrosse team comes to see Nikki [Ad- ams] sing. They love Wuagneux, and Doug Phresh has a pretty big follow- ing."

Every Thursday night Andrews and Adams arrive at Huden Dining Hall around 7 p.m. to set up for the pub night festivities. Lamy is the adviser of the pub night operations and his serving learning class, Community in American Society, is responsible for the Coffee Cottage as well pub night.

"Although we're a small college we've lost our community spaces," Lamy said. "What's happened in our society is we've lost important social places. Places where people can inter- act."

Lamy said pub night has been a re- sponsible, relaxed setting for alcohol to be served on campus. He said the av- erage person of age drinks one to two beers during their time in the Spartan Room. Pub night has never had any incidents and has been a good time and a cheery atmosphere, according to the pub night drummer.

"Here I'm not your teacher or your boss, we can talk about things together or have a beer together," said Lamy, adding. "People are relaxed, they're more themselves and honest about who they are. It's a comfortable place for students to drink on campus responsibly."

Andrews agreed with Lamy.

"It's cool that people can come in and have a drink with their professor, or how faculty and students can just hang out together," said Andrews ex- plaining the comfortable atmosphere in the Spartan Room.

"You get to see your professor out of class," Adams said. "You see them as another person, not your professor."

Andrews said pub night started out as an event, something that happened on campus. Now it has morphed into a weekly gathering that has grown substantially since its birth. Talent is around campus hiding every according to Andrews, and with a growth in at- tendance

"People keep coming back," said Andrews. "They come once and they keep coming back."

Adams smiled and said jokingly, "Free pizza doesn't hurt either."

The Andrews-Adams duo has start- ed up a Myspace page with pub night recordings at www.myspace.com/pub- nightplayers. They are also starting open mic night on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. to provide people a steppingstone to perform on the pub night set list.

Break it Down

Melissa Pope

Reality shows.

We all watch them, have heard of them or are secretly addicted to them.

They are a phenomenon that seems to have taken over the television world.

But why are they called reality shows when many of the situations are so far- fetched from reality?

It has been debated that "The Newlywed Game" was the first reality show, and in some standards I would have to agree.

It's a newly married cou- ple playing a game. In order to win you have to dish the most dirt out about your sig- nificant other.

I feel like that is more of a reality check for those cou- ples than anything else.

Now, let's fast forward a few years and skip some awful unsuccessful shows and this brings us to "Survi- vor." Alright, as far as real- ity goes, no one is put on an island with strangers com- peting for money, as well as being set up with prizes and obstacles. True, the way they react is real but the situation is so far from reality that it seems a bit twisted.

MTV's creation of "The Real World" is like "Survi- vor" put in a domestic set- ting. In my opinion this is the most relatable reality show for a college student. You see the fights, the catti- ness, and the drama all un- fold in front of your eyes.

Sounds like a Castleton State College dorm.

Especially on this sea- son of "The Real World," they have dealt with a crazy amount of issues that are facing our generation right now: dealing with someone we know and love going off to war, being accepting of people regardless of their preferences, and just living together in a cohesive man- ner.

So props to you "Real World," for creating a relat- able scenario for me.

Of course as a college fe- male, when talking about re- ality shows, there is no way in heaven or hell that I could leave "The Hills" out of this discussion. There has been so much discussion about if the lives of Lauren, Heidi, Audrina, and the gang are for real, or if all the drama in their lives is staged.

Speaking as a 20 year-old female, of course the drama is real!

When you are surrounded by that many good look- ing and two-faced people, something's bound to go down.

So, if you haven't im- mersed yourself into the re- ality show trend, dive in, it's never too late to catch up.

Keep it classy Castleton,

Xoxo

Melissa

"Kite Runner" comes to Casella

leghan DuFour
astleton Spartan

A national best-selling novel d an Oscar-nominated film now a one-man show, one at was featured at Castleton tate College last week.

On April 8, actor Sorab Wa- a gave a performance based n Khaled Hosseini's popular ovel, "The Kite Runner."

"The Kite Runner" tells the arful tale of Amir, a young oy from Kabul, who be- iends and eventually betrays assan, a strong-hearted boy ho is wrongfully abused and en accused of things based n Amir's deceipt.

Because of these actions, mir spends the rest of his life lled with regret. The book kes you on a step-by-step urney through his life as he ies to undo the wrong he has one.

The company responsible r the stage production is the merican Place Theatre of ew York. This entire play is erformed verbatim from this rst-person narrative novel.

It started out with some mu- c to help set the mood of the cation where the story takes lace. As the lights fade up, ou see one man standing in e center of the stage, with st a blanket-covered stool ehind him. There wasn't uch to distract you.

WYATT ALOISIO / SPARTAN-

Sorab Wadia performs.

He belts out the first words of the novel as he takes on the role of the main character, Amir. After several minutes of the novel's prep work to get us ready for this dramatic story, he strips himself of his dark gray zip-up vest, swapping it for a green one instead. After the quick costume change, he changes into the adolescent Amir.

Then the story really be- gins.

The hour-long portrayal of this critically acclaimed novel and film went by in an instant. When sitting in that squeaky auditorium chair, you would think that one man walking around a stage talking to him- self would be quite dull. But to the contrary, it was more than entertaining.

Wadia gave everyone in the crowd a feeling as if they were watching the real characters of that story. He truly took on the persona of Amir. Wadia not only conquered that role, but he mimicked the other char- acters and perfected their man- nerisms, so that the audience never felt confused as to which person it was hearing from.

With such a stunning per- formance, we were able to sense the sorrow, hear the hu- mor, feel the fear and relate to all the regret that Amir was feeling. We were sucked into this characters life.

The auditorium heard no noise other than Wadia's ac- cented vocals. It was a quiet audience. Whether people were deeply concentrating on the story or simply taking a nap during what could've been – but wasn't - another dull soundings event, the perfor- mance was so impeccable that the school should've consid- ered charging people for this event. Wadia is a true profes- sional.

If one was to paint a picture of the character Amir and how he acted, it would resemble everything that Wadia gave to this fantastic performance.

Two thumbs up.

CD Review

By Shelby LaCroix
Castleton Spartan

David W. Jacobsen is an independent singer/song- writer from Jersey City, NJ. He's been self-recording al- bums since 1995 and has just recently released his second solo CD, "Walking away from Wonderland."

"Wonderland's" release planted another batch of acoustic-folk roots into the music industry. His sound carries a somewhat medieval tune – I had already imagined vast landscapes of castles in the Middle Ages at the start of the first track. His acoustic- folk-rock guitar style backs his deep, Tracy Chapman- esque voice. Jacobsen claims the lyrics – honest, humor- ous, and reminiscent – reflect his personality.

In an interview with Wa- terfront Weekly, he spoke about the content of his lyrics – stories in themselves. Many of the songs tell of the past – people coming and going – the process by which people deal with it. His lyrics contain a certain relatability. He adds casual humor to seemingly serious psychological top- ics – making the heavy seem light.

"I tend to romanticize the past," Jacobsen said.

He captures the essence and humor of an ended rela- tionship in track two, "Best Thing You Ever Did." It's a catchy tune, light on the mind, heavy on the heart. Track five is my personal favorite – ex- tremely catchy chorus, nice build rhythmically, excellent lyrics, and likely the best song on the album.

In his attempt to create a very streamlined album with consistent style, he's suc- ceeded. However, the tempo changes very little through the course of the album and becomes a bit redundant by the eighth track. And although his lyrics are potent, I found myself somewhat distracted by the depth and pitch of his voice.

Variety is not overrated – I'd like to see this album mixed up a bit. There are some great qualities in the effortlessness of his guitar skills and the unforgettable lyrical timeline. I'll look for- ward to his next release; third time is a charm!

SEX ! Now that we've got your attention, visit Castletonspartan.com for more stories and online exclusives. It's EXCITING. SEX !

FRONT & BACK

Gov. Douglas' veto overridden

Continued from page 1...

some, but not all, rights of heterosexual partnerships to homosexual partnerships.

It was not until 2007 that the state legislature first proposed the idea of allowing gay and lesbian Vermonters the right to marry, creating a committee to research potential benefits and drawbacks of legalizing marriage for all residents.

Two years later, the Green Mountain State became the first to legalize same-sex marriage as the direct result of the legislature's vote after Congress and the House of Representatives overrode Gov. Jim Douglas' veto.

Effective Sep. 1, the bill has had strong opposition and support.

The difference in opinion exists on the Castleton campus, as well, however a random sampling of students reported a staggering 83 out of 100 who agreed with Vermont legislature's decision to allow gay and lesbian marriage.

"I think [gays and lesbians] should have the same rights as everyone else. It's two people in love. That should be the only thing that matters," said Shaftsbury freshman Tiela Robert.

Others agreed.

"I don't think gay marriage should have been an issue in the first place. That shows a lot about our culture, but at the same time, it shows what we've moved into," said Justin Morris, a senior from St. Albans. "The term 'marriage' doesn't bother me, but I have a friend who is very religious and has a problem using [the word marriage] because he thinks it's sacred to a man and a woman."

Bondville's Jay Schwartz echoes this sentiment.

"I believe the sanctity of marriage should be between a man and a woman," said Schwartz. "I think that rights afforded by civil unions should equal those of marriage, but they should remain civil unions."

Other students like Whiting's Matthew Babcock and Enosburg Falls resident Justin Jackson have a hard time concretely agreeing or disagreeing.

"My uncle is gay, so it's hard for me to not support [same-sex marriage]," said Babcock. "I think the rights should be there, but for me, since I'm not in that situation, it still feels unnatural. I'm kind of on the fence about it."

Jackson discussed feelings of indifference about the topic of gay and lesbian marriages itself, but felt relieved at the notion of the state government focusing its attention elsewhere.

"I think that these issues should be focused on in times of economic prosperity, not economic despair," said Jackson. "I do think the outcome was a positive thing, but I'm more glad that the issue is no longer jamming up legislature. I wished we had prioritized a little better."

For Randolph native Ray Boule, the news is more personal.

Boule, who will process in May of this year as a Dec. 2008 graduate, is an out gay man who has long struggled with the fact that his home state has neglected to view him as a first-class citizen.

"I'm extremely glad and impressed that our Congress here in Vermont stood up to the governor. We seemed to settle for civil unions, which had me worried, but I'm glad they realized it wasn't enough and true quality wouldn't occur until this next step was taken."

Boule went on to stress the importance that terminology holds in sending the message that all residents are able to declare their love for one another under the same institution.

"This is the first time I truly feel accepted on a legal level in this state," said Boule. "It feels great!"

Friends supportive of studen

Continued from page 1...

away, Mariah said that over the past few days there have been floods of family and friends in and out of the house, offering their prayers and support.

"Also, I've never had so many Facebook notifications," she added.

Her Facebook page is swamped with comments from friends, congratulating her family on the story's happy ending

She has also heard from Castleton Communication professor Thomas Conroy, whose class she is enrolled in this semester.

"My neighbor, who is indirectly related to her and knew she was a Castleton student, came over and told me Thursday night that Mariah is Captain Phillip's daughter," said Conroy, who has been in contact with Mariah via e-mail. "She's a good solid student. I've been glued to the media ever since."

Castleton's President Dave Wolk has also followed the issue closely.

"Like her Dad, she is courageous," Wolk said in an e-mail to Mariah's professors.

> **"My friends have been very supportive. My dad, he is a dad to my friends, too. My mom, she's the strongest woman I know, and my brother Danny, he's just been great."**
>
> -Mariah Phillips, daughter of captured Capt. Richard Phillips

But the question remains as to when Capt. Phillips will be reunited with his family.

"I still don't know," Mariah said. "It's being kept secret."

The whole issue of her relationship to the captain was pretty secretive on Castleton's campus, too.

"From the college vantage point, we have respected her privacy and have fended off media requests for information," said Wolk on Monda afternoon.

Few other than close friends were aware that a campus member was embroiled in arguably the biggest international story in news.

"I walked into the office after class and freaked out bit," Castleton Spartan Ma aging Editor Terry Badma said. "I had no idea she we here. We had to redesign a bunch of the paper only hours before deadline. It w intense."

Her close friends have been encouraging during t recent events.

"My friends have been very supportive. My dad, is a dad to my friends, too, she said. "My mom, she's the strongest woman I kno and my brother Danny, he' just been great."

After such an ordeal, Mariah still has high hopes that her father will one day return to life on the high se

"Yes," Mariah said. "Th sea is his life besides his fa ily. He loves the ocean. It what he loves."

Poll: active classes are best

Continued from page 1...

the material in front of them.

"I like to give a foundation with the text and my experiences," he said.

Blow does what he has to do to get his students motivated. He'll pace around the room flailing his arms, only stopping for a moment to check the cell phone that's attached to his hip to see how much class time is left.

"I just like to see students engaged," said Blow. "If it means me jumping around and acting all animated, then so be it."

Psychology professor Shannon Raino shares Blow's enthusiasm.

"I love lots of class participation," said Raino. "But when students don't come prepared it's hard to do anything but lecture."

Raino incorporates both PowerPoint presentations and group activities to achieve the goals of her lesson plans, but she also says that it's tough getting people to participate.

The question then becomes how do you get students to actively participate and become more involved?

Professor Tom Rutkowski uses a wide array of teaching methods, varying from lectures, group work, oral reports, oral Q&A sessions and computer usage to try and help cater to each student's preferences.

"I like to relate real work examples to textbook materials," Rutkowski said.

Some of his business students have even gone as far as to name his tales, "Rutkowski stories."

"I also enjoy bringing humor into the classroom," said Rutkowski, adding he also enjoys working individually with students in hopes of getting them to succeed.

But Rutkowski isn't the only teache who teaches with a nice balance of styles in hopes of getting more out of students.

According to the infamous ratemyprofessor.com Web site, where studen can leave feedback and comments about their teachers, History professor Jonathon Spiro was described as "a tru brilliant and devoted professor, makin sure all of his students do his or her be to succeed."

"I think that Spiro is an amazing pr fessor," said social studies major Kayl Blank. "Having an instructor who is s passionate and knowledgeable about h work, it's simply wonderful."

Inside Sports

Softball team takes 3 of 4 against rivals

Continued from page 8 . . .

Lauren Wallace.

Castleton was unable to get on the board until the fourth inning.

Spartan Sarah Flore was walked, then later scored on an RBI double by Bridget Dusha. Dusha was then driven home by Whittemore, who singled. But the Spartan efforts were too little too late.

CSC battled back in the second game.

The two teams went scoreless for three innings until Dusha stepped up and crushed a two-out double to give the Spartans the edge. With runners at second and third, Shannon Jipner contributed with a two-run single. Jipner scored on a single by Heather Alley.

JSC fought back, taking a 5-3 lead in the fifth. A two-run homerun from Wallace was enough to shake Bemis, who gave up three consecutive walks. A sacrifice fly and a single gave the Badgers a lead before Bemis settled down and finished the inning with a strikeout.

The Spartans were not about to hand over another win to the rival state college. CSC scored 10 runs in the bottom of the inning, forcing an 8-run mercy rule victory. Bemis helped her own cause with a two-run homerun to tie the game at five. Wright drove in three runs with a single, and Amanda Gertenmaier followed with a RBI double. Alley got on base with a single, setting up Bemis for three-run homerun. Jipner added the final run, knocking in Flore.

Castleton is 5-7 (3-1 in NAC play) on the season and will travel to Sage College for a 3:00 p.m. game on Tuesday, April 14.

Nicole Adams

Marie VanDerkar

Mike Martinez

Kevin McCarthy

Spartan standouts

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

Since March 25 no Castleton athletes have been better than those who yield a stick. Baseball and softball have been full of impressive pitching and batting. Lacrosse, however, has been hit with a strong scoring addiction. Women's and men's lacrosse has been winning lately and largely due to the snipers and grinders of the native game.

Riding a seven-game win streak, sophomore midfielder Marie VanDerKar and senior attack Nicole Adams have been a driving force for the Spartans with their scoring capabilities. During the seven-game win streak, VanDerKar and Adams have collectively scored 91 points for the Spartan offense.

VanDerKar finished her freshman season with 46 goals and 13 assists. After scoring only three points in her first two games this season, VanDerKar has gone on a shooting fit, scoring 38 goals and picking up five assists. Her 41 goals and seven assists this season put her on pace to improve on last year's 59 points. VanDerKar scored nine goals and assisted on three goals against Becker this season; she also had an eight-goal performance when the Spartans played Norwich.

Adams finished last season with 40 goals and 15 assists. After this season's April 8 game against Norwich, she had 23 goals and 28 assists. Already just four points behind her season high of 55 points from last year, Adams looks to double last year's assist totals and could hit 40 goals again. Her three goals and nine assists against Becker, as well as her five goals and four assists while playing Maine Farmington, show that Adams is a consistent playmaker.

The combination of VanDerKar and Adams has been a huge factor in Castleton's flawless record in the New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance.

The men's lacrosse team has won six of its eight games, thanks to an offensive mix of its own. Junior midfielder Mike Martinez and freshman attack Kevin McCarthy found a scoring formula that could not be stopped as the Spartans continued to grind through the North Atlantic Conference. Martinez scored 17 goals and assisted on three goals through the eight-game stint. His best performance came against Mount Ida as Martinez's six goals helped Castleton finally take down Goliath.

McCarthy has been dishing out assists and plucking corners since the start of the year. His six-goal and four-assist performance was McCarthy's best personal outing so far this season. McCarthy's 14 goals and 11 assists in the eight games was enough to keep the Spartans perfect in the NAC. Martinez and McCarthy have accumulated 45 points together in the past eight matches, leaving the Spartan offense optimistic for the two remaining conference games.

Campus Quips

Sarah Kenney

Question:
If you had a super power what would it be and why?

Tj Marsh

To fly because you always look at the birds and want to fly. I'd use it to have fun and fly, but I may get shot down or something.

Brendan Lacaillade

I would love to have the power to control the physical structure of matter. I would use it to help with scientific theories of quantum physics and matter.

Courtney Pitts

I would want to be Superman so I could fly around and go where I wanted to go. See new cultures and people.

Adalberto Silva

I want to be invisible, so I could spy on people and the shady government operations.

Sarah Neff

Be able to cure unhappiness, any sort of unhappiness in anyone.

Springin' around

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Above: Castleton's own, Twiddle is up for High Times unsigned band of the year. Bottom left: Kacy Chicoine strums his guitar outside of the FAC. Bottom right: Cane Corso puppies Stewart and Buckus relax on the couch.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Kevin Merchant throws down a lofty spin during some spring skiing at Killington on April 6.

Ellis Hall ain't so bad

By Megan Davis
Contributing Writer

Many students know that Ellis Hall has a pretty bad reputation around the Castleton campus.

Students generally seem to have some sort of preconceived notion about it, whether good or bad. I'm here to tell you that that's not true. I absolutely love my room on the third floor.

Ellis is not a bad place to live. My roommate, for instance, moved here from Castleton Hall. Yeah, that's right, the infamous Castleton Hall.

Most of the time, Ellis is categorized as a rowdy freshman dorm because "no one else wants to live there." Well, I did some research as to people that live in Ellis who aren't freshman and found some pretty interesting results.

One of the first people I spoke to was sophomore Bart Kallgren who lives on the second floor of Ellis. I asked why he chose to come back and live in Ellis.

"I chose Ellis because it is a place where you can open your door and see every one in your hall, or you can shut your door and be left alone," Kallgren said. "It is a building that people, who have never lived here, say is horrible; but to the people that do live here, or have lived here say is the best."

"You get to meet more people because of the set up of the dorm, and those people become your friends," he continued. "All the people that lived in this dorm last year are all my good friends this year and it was all because of Ellis."

On top of having that corridor-style charm and convenience, Ellis is also the closest residence hall to basically everything. By that I mean it's closest to Africa, Observatory, the Ellis Lot (obviously), Jeffords, and Public Safety. It's the closest building to everything, except Huden, and even that isn't that much of a walk. Not to mention, we have rugs in our rooms; most Residence halls can't say that.

I spoke to a few other students regarding how they felt about Ellis Hall, and got nothing but good responses.

Freshman roommate's Caitlin Torrey and Julie Whitman were very enthusiastic with their responses.

"Ellis is a wonderful place to socialize, and my first year would be completely different if I didn't live here," Whitman said.

Caitlin Torrey, who is not returning next year, responded with a similar send of fondness.

"I love it! If I had one reason to come back to Castleton next year, it would be to live in Ellis," Torrey said.

Sophomore Tony D'ottavio agreed.

"I wouldn't have come back to live here two years in a row if I didn't enjoy it," he said.

So, in the end, many who lives outside of Ellis thinks it's rowdy and not very nice, but, for those of us who have lived inside Ellis, couldn't picture living anywhere else.

So, next time you think about Ellis, I hope at least some good things come to mind, instead of just the bad that you've heard.

Philosophy, psychology, science, and Batman?

By Wyatt Aloisio
Castleton Spartan

POW! ZING! BAM!

Imagine having a class where watching your favorite comic book films and talking about superheroes was a regular activity. Well it not just a fantasy any longer, as Castleton brought "Special Topics in Film Studies: Superheroes" to its venue of unique courses this semester.

Introduced and taught by communication and theater arts professor Roy Vestrich, the Special Topics class has become a favorite of the Castleton community. With a new topic every spring semester, it is evident that this current class has reached an all-time high in its level of popularity amongst the students.

"It lets me explore what I enjoy," said Jocelyn Emilo, an attendee of the class. "It lets us look at the films on superheroes culturally and it opens my eyes to things I missed in some films."

This class is speaking intensive with students forming panel discussions that analyze and critique different varieties of superhero cinema each week and different topics every other.

"The class is very fun, and everyone participates," Vestrich said. "Here students learn best by being engaged in conversation and discussion amongst each other."

It is difficult to describe how interesting it is to sit down and listen to students of the junior and senior level talk about the original Adam West "Batman" television serials, only to follow that by examining how the show relates to society on a philosophical level.

"The students are walking away with a greater understanding of the icons that are superheroes and the questions we face as a culture at the times they come out," Vestrich said.

Vestrich notes that superheroes have always been a major part of a society's culture.

"(Superheroes) date back in legend as long as there has been written word," he said. "Beowulf, King Arthur, all superheroes of their times."

Despite the course being designated as part of Castleton's minor in Film Studies program, Vestrich has been known to attract a wide variety of students from every concentration of majors.

Past topics for the class have included such film genres as "Aliens on Earth" and "Future Imperfect" (science fiction's take on dystopian futures).

The popularity of the "Superheroes" course among Castleton students can be linked to American audience's current massive interest on the subject matter.

Jim Tighe, a student in the class, believes that other aspects, such as the quality of the instructor, influence the course's popularity heavily amongst Castleton students.

"I love it! Even if it was normal film studies I would have done the same," Tighe said.

SOUNDING OFF

The Place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown:
4 events to go

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday April 21, 12:30 pm Jeffords Lecture Hall
" Street Children of Honduras" Lecture with video

Thursday April 16, 12:30 pm Jeffords Lecture Hall
Dr Lindsay Larson, Phi Eta Signa lecture:
"Psychology of Impression Formation"

Tuesday April 28, Casella Theater
Castleton Jazz Ensemble

Thursday April 30, Casella Theater
Buckets and Tap Shoes Dance Performance
****tickets required****

QUOTABLE LINES

Fiddler On the Roof:
Question: With which character do you most sympathize, and why?

"In this story, I most sympathize for the father. I feel he has put himself in a catch 22. He has an agreement with one man, but at the same, wants his daughter to be happy. At the same time, he has to deal with his own wife, who wants her daughter to marry the butcher. This is a situation no father would want to be in."

--Matthew Gouchberg

SPORTS

Spartans bat away Hornets

By John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

While the weather and the fans may have been freezing cold all day long, the Castleton State College baseball bats were blazing as the Spartans defeated their North Atlantic Conference rival, Lyndon State College, in both games of their doubleheader matchup on Saturday, April 11.

The Spartans took game 1 with a score of 26-1 and game 2 with a score of 9-1.

In the first game, the Spartan offense smoked Lyndon's starter, Jeremy Schichtle, scoring twice in the first inning and tagging the freshman for 13 runs in just four innings. Despite the firestorm that Schichtle faced, it was reliever Ryan Little who most felt the Spartan heat in his 1.1 innings pitched. The Spartans feasted on Little's offerings, cranking out seven hits and 11 runs.

The Spartan offense was fueled by the key spots of its lineup.

David Raczka and Aaron Zrenda both came through in the leadoff and cleanup spots of the batting order as Raczka went 4-5 and Zrenda went 3-4. Both players also drove in four runs in the game. Billy Manley was also dialed in, ripping four hits in five at bats and knocking in two runs from the fifth spot.

Spartan coach Ted Shipley was proud of the way his offense took control, scoring a run in every inning of the game.

"I thought our offense did well," Shipley said. "We work hard on approach and having good at bats. We had those."

Will LaRose got the nod to take the mound for the Spartans in game one. After a little bit of a rough first inning due to two Spartan errors and a hit batter, LaRose settled down and got into a groove of mowing down the Hornet hitters. LaRose ended the day after pitching five innings, giving up just two hits and one run.

"Thought I threw pretty good," said LaRose. "I shouldn't have gave up any hits, hung some change pieces."

After a brief intermission that gave the fans and the players the opportunity to get the feeling back in their fingers, the Spartans went right back to work.

Facing a 1-1 tie after the top of the fourth inning, Castleton came back with its red-hot bats in the bottom of the frame, knocking in two runs. The Spartans added the final six runs of the game with three runs in the fifth inning and three runs in the sixth.

Billy Sisko pitched a complete game despite allowing seven walks. His only spot of trouble came in the fourth inning when he was faced with the task of getting out of a bases-loaded jam with just one out. Sisko was ready for the task, though, and collected two of his nine strikeouts in the game, smothering any confidence the Hornets may have had.

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTA

Jack Lancelin steals third base on April 11 against Lyndon.

"I wasn't exactly happy with my performance," said Sisko. "I mean I had nine strikeouts and only one run scored, but I wanted more than that."

These two games against the Hornets were just the last two in a series of four games against Lyndon that began on Friday, April 10. The Spartans won both Friday games as well with scores of 17-5 and 18-1.

Perhaps none of the Spartans is sadder to see the Hornets leave than Manley, who turned into a one-man Hornet swatter. In the four games against the Hornets, Manley went 12-18 with 10 RBI.

"It was nice to see," said Shipley. "He's a hard worker, a good kid, and he deserved to have a weekend like this. Hopefully, it will be a start for him and he can build upon this."

The Spartans will find out if th will be a start for him and if they c continue their offensive fire as th host Southern Vermont in a NA game on April 15.

Sisko is confident about the Spa tans' future.

"We're in first place in our confe ence, and we plan to stay there," h said. "I think our team has done we but there is a lot of room for improv ment."

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Above: Jason Jakimer weaves through Mt. Ida players during a clear.
Below Left: Spartan goalie Mike Mamunes holds strong in the goal.
Below Right: Kirk Bolduc slashes the stick out of a Mt. Ida player's hands.

Mens lacrosse dishes out revenge to Mt. Ida

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

The Spartans held a one-goal lead. Senior goaltender Mike Mamunes was the last line of defense, and opposing attackman Brett Conley was closing in. Mamunes denied Conley's attempt at evening the score and would hold the Mustangs off for another five minutes.

Since 2003 Castleton and Mount Ida have been facing each other, and Mount Ida has been the victor in all matches except for the 2003 game. With junior midfielder Mike Martinez's six-goal performance and Mamunes's saving 19 shots, the Spartans finally took down their conference foe on March 28. The win has Castleton sitting at the number one seed above Mount Ida in the North Atlantic Conference standings.

"This happened two years ago," Mamunes said about facing a one-on-one with the game on the line. "I was just thinking, 'Oh God,' but we talk about poise and staying calm. I stayed collected and was able to hold on."

Martinez led all scorers with six goals, and sophomore Derek Riley scored a hat trick. Freshman attackman Kevin McCarthy added two goals and three assists to the score sheet. Junior midfielder Jake Rick scored a goal and assisted on two goals while Phil Barry scored another goal and assisted on three.

"They [Mount Ida] haven't lost in the conference for five years," said Rick. "Just to be able to beat them was a victory for the conference."

Since that monumental win over Mount Ida, the Spartans have won four of their last five games. Castleton hit a hiccup on the road after its 12-3 loss to Plymouth State, however, just barely escaping Johnson State in an 11-9 contest. The Spartans have dominated Johnson in recent years.

"The game against Johnson that we won by two goals, we should have won by 22 goals," said Martinez. "We came out ridiculously flat. We were joking around on the bus ride. We were losing by two goals in the fourth quarter to a team our fourth and fifth line could beat. They [Johnson] wanted that win more than we did."

Mamunes agreed the play has been great at times, but pointed out that the team hasn't played well in the past few games.

"We gotta get back on track; we barely beat Johnson," he said. "Right now we're trying to get our heads back into it."

Before the game against Johnson, the Spartans were defeated by Plymouth. The Panthers face guarded McCarthy during the contest, trying to quiet the freshman from the scoring section. Despite Rick's assisting on three goals, Castleton could not find an answer to the Plymouth defense. The Spartans held the Panthers off for the first three quarters, but the seven goals scored in the fourth quarter prevented Castleton from making any comeback.

"We just need to get back into our routine and find out what each player needs to do to prepare for the next game. Getting off the Ida win is important. There's going to be more games, and we can't dwell on that one win," Rick said about the Spartans' focus lately.

The Spartans were, however, able to contain NAC sleeper Maine Maritime the game before Plymouth. Castleton senior attackman Ryan Bartlett scored four goals in the game— and his fourth proved to be the game winner. Martinez, Riley and sophomore midfielder Craig MacDerment all scored two goals. Mamunes saved 16 shots in that win.

"We definitely need to win the conference games we have left," said junior midfielder Dan Luzzi. "But we need to win out to show the lacrosse community that we're legitimate. When we play like a team it's great. When we come together as a team we can beat anyone."

Castleton will play St. Joseph's, Husson and Kean at home before finishing the season at Lyndon State. The Spartans remain undefeated in the NAC and have two conference games remaining in the season.

Softball team rolling along nicely at 3-1 in NAC

By Annie Hartman
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton State College women's softball team proved it is the strongest of the three Vermont State Colleges in Division III softball, winning three of four games over the weekend against Lyndon State and Johnson State.

The Spartans opened their successful weekend Friday afternoon, playing host to Lyndon. Castleton came out strong against the Hornets with Castleton ace Tosha Whittemore on the mound. Whittemore pitched all seven innings for the Spartans, allowing just four hits, one walk and one unearned run. Castleton lit up LSC's Sara Fetterhoff, who gave up 10 hits and five walks. Junior third baseman Hilary Bemis contributed with two hits and a scored run for Castleton on its way to a 6-1 win in the first game.

But it was the second game where Bemis truly shone. The junior threw a no-hitter for the Spartans in a 15-0 victory in just five innings. She also contributed at the plate with five hits and eight RBIs. Bemis struck two homeruns—one a base-clearing grand slam.

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Hilary Bemis slides in safe at third base against Lyndon State College on April 10th

Freshman shortstop Lydia McPherson contributed to the offensive showcase with a pair of doubles. Spartan catcher Stephanie Wright had two hits and scored two runs in the victory, which increased Castleton's record to 4-6.

The Spartans were back on the field Saturday for a doubleheader against visiting Johnson State College. Castleton had momentum going into the afternoon, but lost steam in the first game, and the Badgers came away with the 5-2 victory.

Whittemore was shaken up by the JSC offense, which scored five runs in the first two innings. Johnson's starting pitcher, Allie Cunningham, started off the rally with an RBI double in the first. Morgan Rogerson singled, putting Cunningham at third. With runners at first and third, Brittany Lumsden singled to left, scoring Cunningham. Rogerson scored on a pass ball, and Lumsden later scored on a base hit by

Continued on page 6 . . .

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

NAC champs! Page 8

D-Phreshest comedy Page 5

Earth Day!! Page 4

Reunited and it feels so good

By Eva Kane Leenman
Castleton Spartan

Waiting anxiously for her father's flight to land at Burlington International Airport, Castleton State College student Mariah Phillips felt like she was 5 years old again.

Since they were kids, Mariah, 18, and her brother Danny, 20, have had a tradition of bringing their father to the airport and watching his plane take off. They would also be there to watch it land.

Sitting in the tiny office of the Castleton State College Spartan on Thursday, the affable teen smiles as she fondly recollects a game she and her brother played as children.

"Waiting at the airport for him - whoever saw his plane first, got a reward -- a dollar or something."

Although Mariah has watched her father's plane hit the runway many times in her life, the landing on April 17 was different.

"Am I allowed to run?" she recalls asking her mom and others around her. "I was too excited to walk."

Mariah, eyes twinkling, gestures with her hands as she describes how she ran to her father, and jumped on him.

"I grabbed him and he hugged me and said, 'Hey, Riah.'"

Mariah's father, Richard Phillips, captain of the U.S. ship Maersk Alabama, was taken hostage on April 8 after Somalian pirates attacked the ship. After five days tied up on a 28-foot lifeboat with a gun to his back, a very modest Phillips was rescued by Navy snipers who killed three pirates and took another into custody.

"I am just ecstatic that he is home and he is safe," Mariah said. "While the whole thing was going on it felt like it wasn't real -- kind of an out of body experience."

Who is Captain Phillips?

On Route 15 near the Phillips' house, there are these signs -- magnetic ones where the letters can be shuffled around to say different things. Recently, they were changed to read: "Welcome Home Captain Phillips."

Driving home, Mariah's mother, Andrea, pointed them out to her husband.

"Look, Richard, you made the signs," Mariah quotes her mother as saying.

"Oh no, not the signs," Capt. Phil-

Continued on page 6 . . .

DAVE BLOW / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Mariah Phillips sits down for an interview with Spartan reporter Eva Kane Leenman.

Dean of Students Greg Stone

Dean Stone set to retire

By Shelby LaCroix
Castleton Spartan

Dean of Students Greg Stone is retiring after 10 years at Castleton State College.

"This place, this was the culmination of my work experience. I've worked up through Res. Life, I've been an associate dean and I got to be a dean for 10 years. The people I've worked with have been spectacular," Stone said.

Stone's career at Castleton has encompassed numerous positions within Residence Life, as well as coaching both men's and women's ice hockey. He has reached out to the community, always with Castleton's best interests at heart.

"What I wanted to do was to make sure we were offering something of quality," Stone said. "When you offer quality here, pretty quickly that will come back, because you're going to leave here and you're going to tell everybody what a wonderful place it was."

In his time at Castleton, Stone has worked closely with President Dave Wolk. Wolk discussed the importance of Stone's position at the college, and his in-

Continued on page 3 . . .

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ROY VESTRICH

Roy Vestrich sailing in July 2008 on the Hudson river- after sailing his 20' Flicka up from Florida (above). Roy's student ID photo from the 1972-1973 school year.

Surfing the waves of life

By Kyle Faulker
Contributing Writer

Being a naïve 17-year-old kid, Roy Vestrich was about to prove to his friends that he owned the Atlantic. Although they were the ones to convince him to paddle out and surf the waves one frigid December day, he was the one going to prove this was his domain.

The waves off New York's Long Beach were running around six to eight feet as he ventured out to see what kind of rides he could slash, not knowing that the water had other intentions. After getting a few short rides in, a huge closeout caught him by surprise and forced him off of his board.

The water was unmerciful, sucking him under and causing his wetsuit to fill up with cold water. With thousands of tons of water spinning him about, Vestrich became disorientated and lost his sense of up and down. When he finally surfaced, he was surprisingly still conscious and lucky to be able to swim back to shore.

"It was just another day, but I guess it was really a pretty close call," the now Castleton State College Communication professor said, reminiscing of his surfing days as a youth.

Vestrich sits behind his cluttered desk, his feet propped up and his hands behind his head, sipping some tea. It's almost as if a tornado had recently ripped through his office, throwing poster board, papers, DVDs, and VHS tapes in every direction.

With his days of surfing in the past, but not forgotten, Vestrich traded in the waves for life at Castleton State College. He now has a wife, Dawn, and two children, Joel, 23, and Wylla, 18.

Although somewhat of a hippie at the time, with hints of it even still, Vestrich knew as a teenager that an education beyond high school was in his future.

Continued on page 6 . . .

Edward MacEnulty - much more than meets the eye

MEGHAN DUFOUR / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Edward MacEnulty enjoys a cup of tea.

By Meghan DuFour
Castleton Spartan

Busting through the front doors into the empty living room, Castleton State College senior Edward MacEnulty throws his bookbag onto the couch, yanks down his Ralph Lauren sweater and slips off his polished brown shoes. Without another word, he dashes up the stairs, reappearing two minutes later sporting a pair of loose gray sweatpants and white tank top, running to the stove to make himself a cup of tea.

He plops himself down on the couch, folds his hands into one another and waits for the interview to start.

"Let's do this," he says patiently.

Behavior like drinking tea, watching classic movies and reading poetry isn't what most would expect from this outspoken young man. In fact, most people's first impressions of the Student Association President are far from reality.

Daniel Olanoff, Castleton State College senior and roommate of MacEnulty's, expressed his first encounter with MacEnulty as a surprising one.

"My first impression of him was that he was a loud and cool guy. But after getting to know him more, I realized that he is also really intelligent. It surprised me just how devoted to school he was," said Olanoff.

But MacEnulty didn't just give a good first impression to his fellow classmates, he also left an impression in people that knew him for a short time.

"He was always nice and made everything interesting and fun," said Courtney Leavitt, CSC sophomore and former member of MacEnulty's SOS group.

Although MacEnulty is seen by many as a fun loving guy without a care in the world, he has a serious side as well.

History professor, Jonathan Spiro, has been in contact with MacEnulty for several years.

"At first I thought he was just another average male student, not very interested in academics and that there was nothing special about him. But quickly I discovered that I was completely wrong about all that," said Spiro.

Continued on page 3 . . .

Editorial ▷ Page 2 • News ▷ Page 3-4 • A&E ▷ Page 5 • Front & Back ▷ Page 6 • Campus ▷ Page 7 • Sports ▷ Page 8

Addressing the power of our words

For the past few weeks, national news and media have been focusing the horrendous murder of 8-year-old Sandra Cantu in Tracy, Calif.

Sandra was reported missing on March 27, and a massive search party was launched in efforts to find her.

A week later, her body was found stuffed in a suitcase in a river and left the Tracy community, as well as everyone following the story across the country, searching for answers.

The case only continued to become more gruesome as more details were released: police arrested Sunday school teacher Melissa Huckabee, who often looked after Sandra Cantu when she and Huckabee's daughter would play together.

By the time Huckabee was arraigned, the results of Sandra's autopsy came back to reveal an additional horrifying detail: the 8-year-old girl had been raped with a foreign object.

Having followed this story intently, I would routinely check online news updates to see how the case and charges progressed.

Every updated article I found said something about "lascivious conduct" or "lascivious acts."I had a general idea of what the word "lascivious" meant, but I wanted to look it up to be sure.

I understand that "lascivious" is an official legal term used to describe crimes that involve rape and molestation, but that is where I find an enormous problem.

Using a word with such strong sexual implications suggests that rape is an act motivated mostly -- or even mainly -- by sex, which sociologists have been trying to teach us for years is often not the case.

There are a lot of issues that American society has made considerable progress on in the past few decades.

The Civil Rights movement in the '60s fought for basic rights for African-Americans.

In 2008, we elected the first African-American president.

Homosexuality was considered a disease up through the '70s, and then earlier this month, Vermont became the fourth state to legalize same-sex marriage.

Yet, as far as we've come in these areas, we still shy away from topics like rape, assault and anything that may be difficult to talk about.

It's time to start talking.

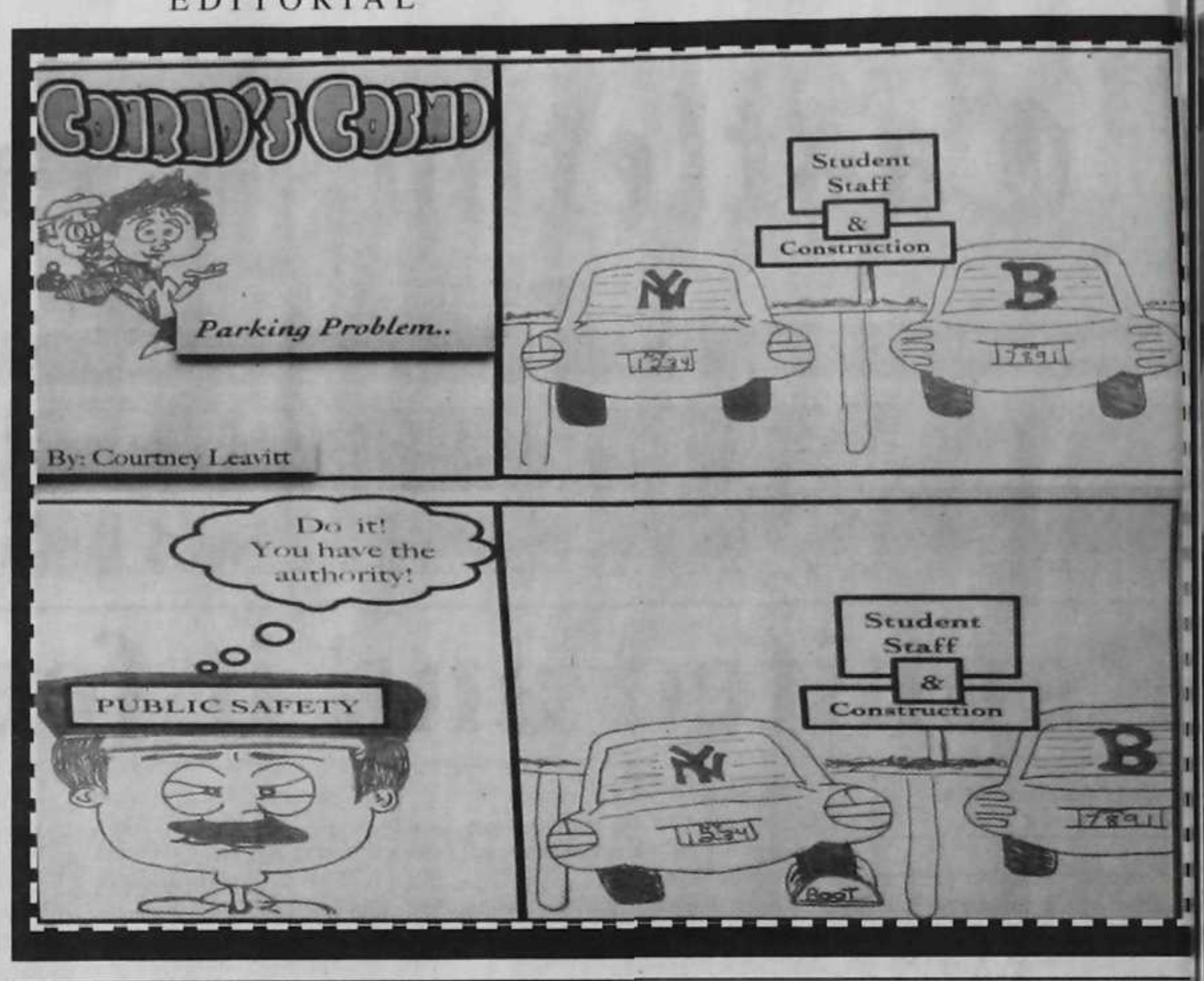
Language determines what is acceptable and unacceptable in any culture; it's how we get our social cues, and whether or not we realize it, we often draw conclusions just based on the implications that certain words have.

Using "lascivious" to refer to rape turns the focus toward sex, which often has little to do with the act, and away from issues of power and control, which are the central motivators surrounding rape.

These misguided inferences create a perpetual chain of unawareness that sets us back further and further from understanding and ultimately decreasing the commonality of these unspeakable crimes.

Knowing isn't enough.

It's up to us to rise to the occasion and change the dialogue.



Our canine companions are important to campus culture

This upcoming fall will bring about a lot of changes for student athletes here at Castleton. It's hard to ignore all the commotion about Spartan Stadium. Am I absolutely thrilled to play on it for my senior year? Of course, but along with all the excitement, there's one little fan of mine who most likely won't be able to attend any of my games.

The majority of the time, artificial turf stadiums enforce a strict, "No Dogs Allowed," policy.

I haven't heard exactly whether or not dogs will be completely banned, but nevertheless it's still going to be a little disheartening when my dog can't run onto the field to greet me after a victory or a loss.

It was always nice to look over and see my little guy acting so patient, so grateful just to be outside with people.

And have you noticed how many other canines are present at these outdoor sporting events? Tons. After Castleton's recent "dog boom," many students and faculty enjoy bringing their pooches outside with them to support their Spartans.

It's great to be able to take my dog for a walk around campus, stop down at the fields and catch a bit of whatever game is going on. I feel that with this new stadium, maybe it will actually deter fans from attending games.

Some people love to have their dog with them at all times. I personally feel pretty darn guilty when the weather is nice outside and I've got to leave my pup inside. I feel awful because I'm outside enjoying a beautiful day and my best friend isn't.

If dogs are allowed at this stadium, I'm guessing that they'll only be allowed to stand behind a fence that encloses the turf. Well that's no fun. Who wants to stand for an hour or two?

It's just a little bit sad that our playfu friends won't be allowed to attend our games. They were just as loyal fans as the rest of us.

They stood in the rain, they lay down at our feet when it was 30 or 40 degree out, and they soaked up all the attention and sun they could when it was beautiful out.

And now here we are.

Well people, there are a few games left to be watched during the last bit of this spring season, I say get out there with your dogs and enjoy them while you can.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Spartan Editor,

In early October, we put together a small pamphlet titled "The Complete Voter Guide" for the 2008 Elections. This was the result of the collaborative work of students from several of my classes over three years and the painstaking updating of information by my wonderful research assistant Eva Kane Leenman who also designed the "Guide" to make it user-friendly. While most of the feedback was positive, we did get some negative comments. It is these negative comments that I wish to address here.

Unfortunately all of them were anonymous. One simply ranted about how anti-American I was and asked that if I hated America so much why I did not leave the country. Why this charge stemmed from a "Guide" created to educate students about citizenship issues urging them to vote is still unfathomable to me.

However, I did receive one very well-written criticism of the pamphlet. The writer excoriated me for "cherry picking issues" and using biased language. As an example he/she gave the example of the words used in the case of reproductive health: why we used the phrase "right to choose" but did not use the "equally loaded" phrase "right to life."

I was extremely impressed. The writer not only read our "Guide" carefully, but also seems to be quite skilled at language analysis. But the choice of words was not mine but came directly out of the University of Annenberg's website that we sourced. Also, students in my 2 sections of the "Introduction to Women's Studies" courses read about the politics of abortion in the class from Megan Seely's Fight Like a Girl, a wonderful, accessible paperback that I urge any person to read.

Seely explains the politics behind the two phrases and students understood that the right to choose, includes the right to choose to eschew abortion at all costs (something that not everybody understands). I thought that in light of President Barack Obama's recent reversal of the ban on stem cell research these criticisms might be of interest again.

The writer of the note ended by saying: "Don't get me wrong. I am an Obama supporter. But I hate it when Democrats are hypocrites" (spellings corrected). Here the writer made two assumptions. First, that I would want the writer to be an Obama supporter. Second, that I am a Democrat.

For the record, I voted by early ballot. And I cast my vote for someone whose career I have followed for a long time and whom I have long admired: Cynthia McKinney. Of the Green Party.

Sincerely,
Dr Sanjukta Ghosh
Professor
Communication and Women's Studies

We're listening.

Visit CastletonSpartan.com to share your thoughts on our messageboard, email us at thespartan@castleton.edu, or leave a message at campus extension 6067.

OVERHEARD ONLINE @ CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM

Responses to: "CSC freshman shares thoughts on her father's pirate plight" (4/15)

My wife and I are both CSC alum and only thought how close it felt that your dad was from VT and was involved. Surprised to say the least that the connection is even closer with you being a CSC student! We are VERY happy this ended with your dad being saved and the criminals getting dealt with swiftly.

- Chris Dudley

Hooray! Happy family reunion day to you all! Best wishes!

- Maureen Terry DeForge

Responses to: "'Fagot' art stirs debate" (4/15)

I'll be the first to admit that I had to look up the definition of "fagot", which has at least 10 possible meanings according to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot). Only one of these could be considered derogatory and in that case apparently only in North America.

I submit that a college is exactly the place that this art, with an apparent unintentionally controversial title, should be displayed. Where better to discuss the bastardization of words in the English language, obscuring their meaning to something completely unrelated from their origin. Or words with different meaning in other countries or cultures (which seems to be the case here).

The world is a very big and diverse place. Be willing to learn and attempt to understand the views of other groups, countries and cultures. You don't have to agree with them, but knowledge and an open mind outweigh ignorance and a closed mind any day.

- John C.

I also have to admit that I take absolutely no offense to the artwork nor its name. First of all, the literal definition of "fagot" is exactly what the piece of art is, and even though I do not know the artist personally,

I am fairly confident in saying that he in no way intended to use this piece as a comment on an anti-gay slur. Second of all, if anything I could argue that it is a POSITIVE thing in the name of moving away from hateful terms because it is bringing back the actual nature of the word.

I would never expect or encourage the artist to change the name of this piece.

- Laura

Response to: "Ellis Hall ain't so bad" (4/15)

I lived in Ellis from 1969-1972. During my 4th year I lived in the Wright House. I began on 2nd North for my first term; then moved to 2nd South. 2nd South was an education and the wonderful friends I met there are very good friends to this very day. Ellis was all female then. We had a carpeted hall even despite an unfortunate incident with a drinking fountain :-) Ellis could be rowdy; freshmen lived with upper classmen. Ellis met my needs perfectly: convenience, fun, security, fun, shelter, fun, comraderie, etc. As I am writing I can picture my room (2nd South; second door on the right, unable to recall room number) and the many good times there. Since I lived out of state I was always at the dorm; I stdied in Coolidge Library on weeknights and I went out on weekends. I wish life were this easy today.

- M. Rita Costello

Castleton Spartan
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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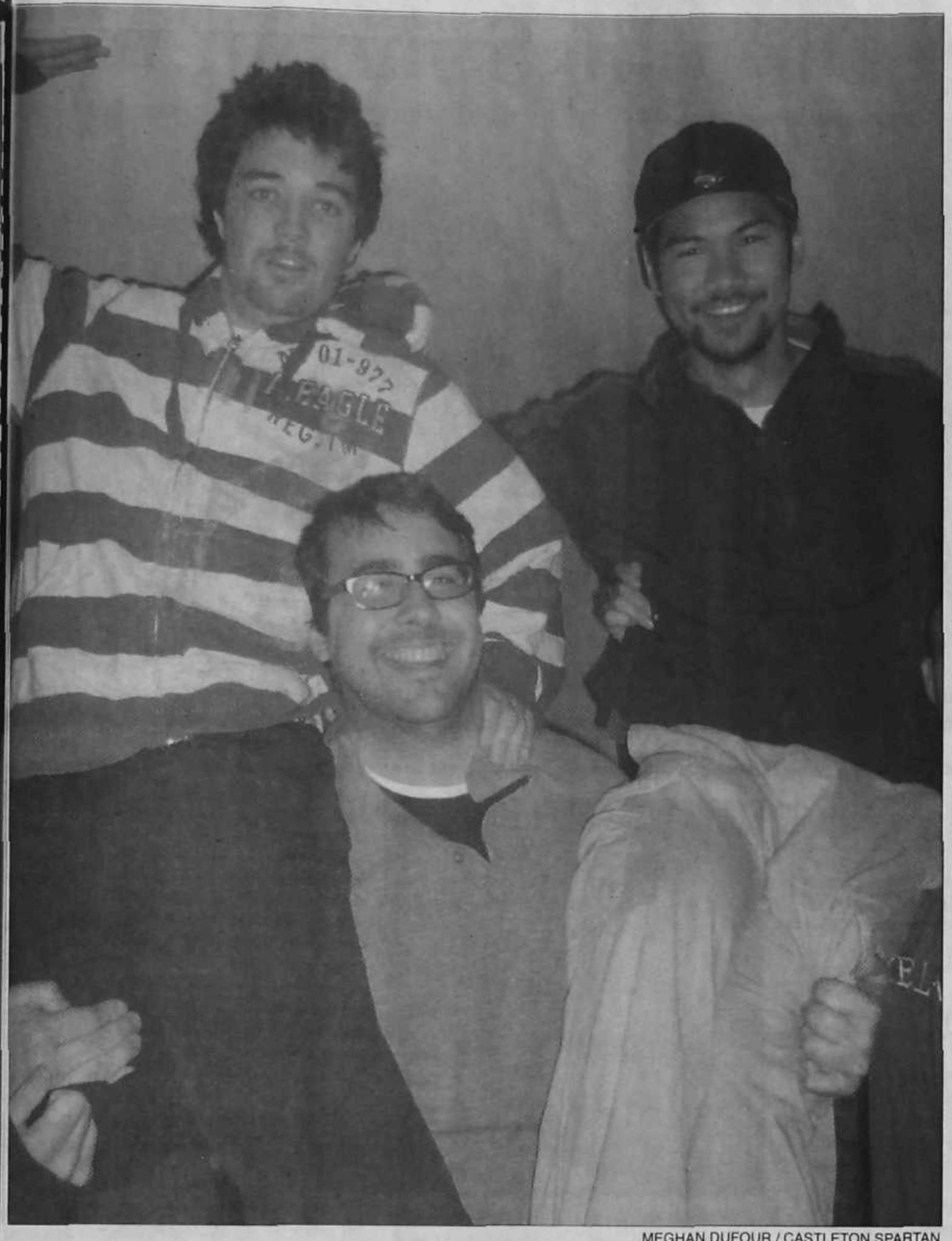

MEGHAN DUFOUR / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Edward MacEnulty(center) goofs around with a couple of his friends.

MacEnulty: Growing up in NYC opened my eyes to other cultural advatages

Continued from page 1 . . .

The beginning

Edward Wright MacEnulty, 21, grew up in New York City, a place that showed him new things and made him see what he wanted to do with his future.

"Growing up in New York City has opened my eyes to other cultural advatages. I was going to one of the best high schools in the area. I was able to go and work at a museum of natural history. I learned things that some people might not be able to see," said MacEnulty.

Working in the museum sparked his interest in history, making his greatest goal to one day finish up a doctorate in art history and work in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"If I could be one person for a day, I would be Keith Christianson. He is a friend of the family and a curator of the Itialian Renaissance at the Metro. He gets paid to travel to Italy, my favorite place. That's the life," said MacEnulty.

One thing that has always seemed important to him was knowledge and having a good idea of what was happening in the world around him.

"One of my mentors was Father Cannon Norris. He was my priest in New York. He was the smartest person I ever met. He was a Rhodes scholar. He had the ability to listen to other people's problems and not get tied down by them and their opinions. These are all qualities I hope to attain," said MacEnulty.

A leader

Leadership has become an everyday task for MacEnulty since his schedule is full of all different types of extracurriculars. He is Student Association president, the senior class president, a member of 1 in 4, a member of the Castleton State Rugby team, a member of the Travel Club, Student Orientation Staff leader and soon-to-be graduate. But his extracurriculars didn't start once he got to college. He was previously involved in national chess competitions where he once took home the championship. But one way that everyone on this campus can appreciate his role as a leader, is his role as Student Association president.

"Even in his first few months as SA president, Ed has already shown impressive leadership qualities. He and others have developed a new SA configuration that seems to promise better efficiency and more meaningful involvement. Ed has taken the lead responsibility in advocating for this change that appears to be an improvement for student access and advocacy," states Castleton State College President Dave Wolk in an e-mailed response.

MacEnulty has made plenty of steps toward bettering our school already this year, and although his reign on this campus is coming to an end, what he has done for the school will stay for a long time.

Not only has he helped in the advancement of programs and overall happiness of the student body at CSC, but he has also made a great effort in helping people better themselves.

Fellow rugby player and neighbor, Castleton State College junior Liz Garibay, feels that everyone MacEnulty has come in contact with has learned something from him.

"He's sweet, easy going, easy to talk to, and one of the most reliable people I've ever met. He has taught me that there's a time to be serious and a time to have fun," said Garibay.

Olanoff, his roommate, went on saying "If there's one thing he's taught me, it's to not judge anything by the way it looks or acts."

MacEnulty has been known to open up to people, regardless of who they are or where they come from, he is a friend to all.

As a fellow S.O.S leader and friend of MacEnulty's, Castleton State College junior Melissa Pope shares her feelings towards her peer.

"One of his greatest qualities is that he'll be there for you no matter what, even if he doesn't know you. You are instantly his friend. He's very personable," says Pope.

Megan Phillips, another former S.O.S leader who worked alongside MacEnulty, shares similar feelings.

"He was very good at opening up and making new students feel comfortable. He has a good personality that everyone can relate to," said Phillips.

Looking Ahead

The 2009 graduate will return to New York City after he graduates to pursue a career in the military.

Much can be said about this generous man, but one thing that can't be said is that he has no future.

"He's funny, serious, and likeable. He's always determined to do the best he can do. He's doing all the things someone should do to insure their success in life. He's studying hard and getting involved in all sorts of extracurriculars. We all know he has a very bright future ahead of him," said Spiro.

Students' journey at CSC begins at Wright House

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

There has been a large influx of student applications and number of tours at Castleton State College in the past couple of years. Although construction has posed several problems, and the admissions office has had to make some slight changes to help keep incoming students informed about the Castleton experience, numbers have been continuously increasing.

Along with the soft rock music playing, the welcoming old fashioned couches and rug and marble table, the admissions office contains the future of Castleton. With more than 2,000 visitors flowing into the admissions office throughout the year, it is crucial that these students are able to see at least a virtual image of the future Castleton. And through the screen of a simple laptop constantly flashing scenes of the virtual future Castleton, they can.

"It's hard to know what it looked liked before. We are in the middle of campus construction," said Maurice Ouimet, dean of enrollment at Castleton.

The virtual tour allows students to visualize what the campus they just toured will look like within the next few years.

This is extremely important because it's now prime touring season, a time when students have to decide where they are going to spend the next four years of their lives, and the admissions office has been booming more than ever.

"Our number of applications has tripled in the past years," said Gary Rogers, the campus visits coordinator.

Compared to last year, the admissions office has seen a 5 to 7 percent increase in applications, said Ouimet, which is record breaking. The school recruits heavily in the Northeast, and promotes the school through college fairs, its Web presence and high school counselors.

"I have certainly noticed more people on the tours," said sophomore Bart Kalgren, who has been giving tours for the past two years. "Even though it's hard with the construction [my route changes every day] there were record numbers of people at the first two open houses this year."

The admissions office has received more than 3,000 applications this year alone, said Ouimet. The average class size at Castleton currently consists of 600 students, which includes approximately 475 first-year students and about 150 transfers.

"It's definitely becoming more selective. It's a small college and we want to keep that environment. But we also don't want to close the door on people we deny," said Ouimet.

As the virtual image of Castleton continues to become more of a reality for students, the admissions office, in its niche behind Leavenworth, is currently working hard to coordinate "accepted student days," giving tours, planning one more open house and finishing the selection process in hopes to find the best suited class of 2013.

Proulx to replace Stone as Dean of Students

Continued from page 1 . .

volvement in the school's current changes.

"I've very much enjoyed my interactions with Dean Stone. He's been a wonderful student advocate, a very gentle man and a gentleman. Always looking out for what's best for students," Wolk said.

"When I came here, he repeatedly talked to me about starting hockey for both women and men, because he'd been such an avid hockey fan . . . the very first day I met him he started talking about hockey and never stopped," Wolk said.

Wolk said that Stone was also a key player in the ongoing campus renovations at Castleton.

"He also talked from the very beginning about the need to renovate and expand the student center which was built back in the seventies and never really served our needs," Wolk said.

Wolk explained that Stone has been consistently involved with the Student Initiative from the very start of it. He's also played a role in the CHANGE initiative, alongside Professor Linda Olson.

Associate Dean Dennis Proulx spoke highly of his experience working with Stone.

"Anyone who knows Greg Stone knows that he's just a great guy. He's at the age of retirement, and he has the wisdom of someone who is retiring after 30 of being in the field. So, he's very wise counseling us as his mentees. He will ask questions as opposed to giving direction," Proulx said.

"I came to work here five years ago, and he is in the top two supervisors I've ever had in my twenty-plus years in higher education," said Proulx, "He's a great coach, a great mentor."

Proulx has been hired to fill the position of Dean of Students once Stone has officially retired.

"In general, this institution really cares," Stone said. "It's really hard when you work somewhere where you can't connect with people. Here, we've really worked hard. The faculty reaches out and we reach out, and we all see ourselves in the same endeavor. And that's really rewarding, because the people that you work with become your friends."

Stone explained why the Castleton experience often varies so greatly from larger schools with less student-faculty interaction.

"What do we do? We teach young folks, face to face, very well. We spend a lot of time with them, give them a lot of experiences for opportunities, and let them explore. That's what we do," Stone said.

Stone spoke fondly of his tenure at Castleton, adding that nurturing students was always the primary focus of Castleton's endeavors.

"The time has come for me to move on, for this campus and student life to have new leadership that has new ideas," said Stone. "I hope that I'd leave the legacy that we're in the business of young people finding their passions, and supporting them so that they can go forward."

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
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NEWS

Students question need for mandated meal plan

By Melissa Pope
Castleton Spartan

Huden is a common stomping ground for every student who has ever lived on this campus. Whether students love the dining hall or feel forced to go there, almost every on-campus student has eaten there at some point in time.

This dining experience comes with a price. But how does one know that they're getting their money's worth?

"I think I spend maybe $100 a month on food and a meal plan is at least three times that," said CSC senior Meredith Pope.

Pope, an off-campus student, said moving off campus reduced her food budget by more than half.

The Castleton meal plan currently costs on-campus students $1,518 a semester for the typical plan. As of now, on-campus students are required to purchase meal plans as part of the school's room and board package.

"I think that it is ridiculous that meal plans are required," Pope said. "But I understand why (the school) requires it. Because if they did not, then no one would buy it and they would not make money."

Castleton Dean of Students Gregory Stone said the plan was designed for other reasons.

"The idea behind the meal plan is to give folks the opportunity to not worry about feeding themselves and cleaning up," Stone said. "It leaves them time for other things. We want them to have as much time as possible to learn and grow on this campus."

The meal plan is seen as a package deal. The remaining money that is not used to pay the dining services and building costs is put toward the residence halls, in an attempt to keep them as nice as possible, Stone said.

"It's not like we are funding the football team with that money," said Stone with a chuckle.

Currently the administration is not completely opposed to making exceptions to the requirement on a student-to-student basis. However, they occur very rarely.

Students on campus don't seem to have the same feeling that the administration has about meal plans.

"I have no idea how much money I spend on a meal plan, but I go there about two times a day, all depending on whether (the food) is bothering my stomach from the day before," said freshman Graham Monroe.

"We should be able to choose," freshman Brittany Winslow said. "I have a meal plan and I've been to Huden three times this semester. I'm considering living off-campus just so I don't have to have a meal plan."

"I shouldn't be paying that much for rotten fruit and overcooked chicken," Winslow said. "I can do better with a microwave and that's not saying much."

Earth Day the Spartan way

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTA

Vendors set up shop for Earth Day on campus (above); Bobby Mendez from the band The Peace jams out in Jeffords auditorum (below

By Annie Hartman
Castleton Spartan

The Jefford's Center lawn turned into a flea market-style celebration on April 22, as dozens of Castleton students turned out to partake in the Earth Day celebrations on campus.

Tents lined the walkways, with each featuring a different local vendor.

From caramel apples to hand-woven seats, every product was hand made, Vermont made, natural, and reused or recycled.

Several of the vendors are locals who generally sell their products at the Rutland County Farmer's Market.

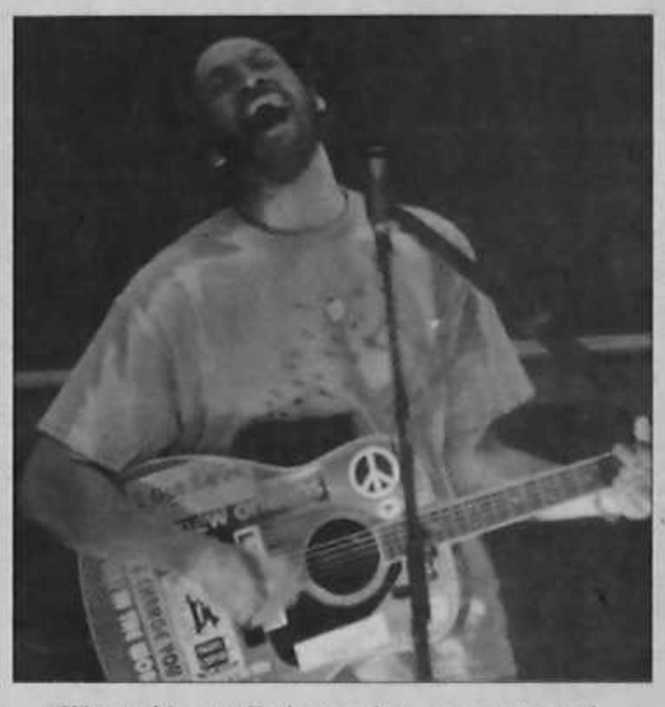
Kimberly DiNofrio made the trek over Killington for the CSC event where she sells her handmade purses in Woodstock.

The purses are crafted from old jeans that she collects from thrift stores or from friends that donate old denim to her craft. The bags are lined, each with a different patterned fabric and are sold for about $30 each.

Accompanying the background noise of chatter from students sampling snacks between classes and scoping out the Earth-friendly products was a live band.

The stage set up between the green house and Jeffords center was decked out with high-tech amps and mics but none of it was energized in the typical manner.

Solar panels and wind energy supplied power to the whole outfit. Central Vermont Solar and Wind provided the natural energy for the performers.



"We could actually have a lot more amps and stuff if we wanted," said C&V installer Ken Oldrid, pointing out how much power the system actually creates.

C&V is based in Rutland but installs all over Vermont. They have just signed a deal with Central Vermont Public Service. CVPS currently provides nearly three quarters of the energy in the state.

"We'll probably bring it back next year," said Oldrid. "People seem to like it."

Even with the warm April weather, area local Marilyn Brandner didn't hesitate to bring her wool and angora winter gear.

Brandner has owned angora rabbits, sheep, and llamas for about 20 years. The fur that keeps her animals warm all winter is skillfully stitched into hats, headband, and some is left just as yarn for customers to create their own snuggly products.

Brandner set up shop for the first time on the CSC campus for the Earth Day festivities, Angora rabbit in tow.

With bunny, Gwen, on her lap, Brandner spun the angora strait from the fur she combed off the rabbit.

Passersby were welcome to pet the rabbit that seemed quite content with all the attention and combing and the slow, steady, tapping of her owner's foot as she spun.

Brandner shared any and all information with questioning guests.

Free food is the highlight of any college kid's day, and the vendors at Earth Day must have known.

Professor Phil Lamy's wife, Whitney, of Whitney's Castleton Crackers displayed three of her delectable artisan crackers.

She says she created the tasty treats to accompany all of the fine cheeses Vermont has to offer. Jellies, jams, and caramels were offered for samples another local vendors stand.

Aside from the edible, other products inspired students with a little spring fever, selling small pots of flowers and vegetables.

Home-baked cookies, brownies, and fudge were also for sale around the small market of Earth Day celebration.

The celebration continued into the evening hours with sustainability energy displays and arts and craft demonstrations, ending the day as a great introduction to a Vermont summer.

CSC gets sprung

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

Castleton State College held its annual Spring Weekend celebration on April 17 and 18, hosting a variety of activities for people of all ages

The event kicked off Friday evening in Huden dining hall with a dinner theater Murder Mystery, featuring various local actors and actresses dressed as "alumni." One character, who wore a large helmet, bizarre glasses, and pants up way too high, walked around table to table telling students "how good it was to see them."

The musical-comedy performer Jenn Hyjack followed this excitement.

On Saturday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., students, faculty and community members lined the Shape gym for an afternoon filled with free food and various venders.

Each station contained its own element, including rice necklaces, caramel apples, funnel cake and hot dogs, a photo booth, and even spin art Frisbee making -- and it was all free for students.

"It has great food and I got to make a Frisbee, which I have always wanted to do," said freshman Kelly Tetreault.

The event was made possible by Student Association/Student Activities, and led by Director of Student Activities Melissa Paradee and Student Association Secretary Jazmin Averbuck.

Paradee and Averbuck coordinated spring weekend with Party Vision, who supplied all the food and activities for the weekend.

"It was awesome!" said sophomore Samuel Morse, who spent the afternoon in the "gladiator joust," which was one of two inflatable activities available. The inflated cage allowed two people, each on a platform, to joust to see who could stay up the longest.

The gym also contained a bungee run, which challenged opponents to run while attached to a bungee cord to see who could get the furthest.

"I have been here for four years," said Dave, an employee of Party Vision. "We go from college to college, and other corporate events, and provide them with all the entertainment you see here today."

"It's great because you are doing something different all the time. And I really enjoy coming to Castleton; I've never had a problem with this school," he said.

Spring weekend was capped off with casino night, held in the multi-purpose room in Castleton. The event was no buy-in and top finisher, senior Adam Desautel, won a GPS system.

"There were three tables with about five people at each one, and then some spectators," said freshman Steve Jurnak who attended the tournament and festival.

"It was fun, pretty laid back, nobody was too serious," Jurnak said. "All in all, it was a really good weekend."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JAZMINE AVERBUCK

Spartan photographer Wyatt Aloisio braces for impact.

Porno's not the only useful thing on the Internet these days

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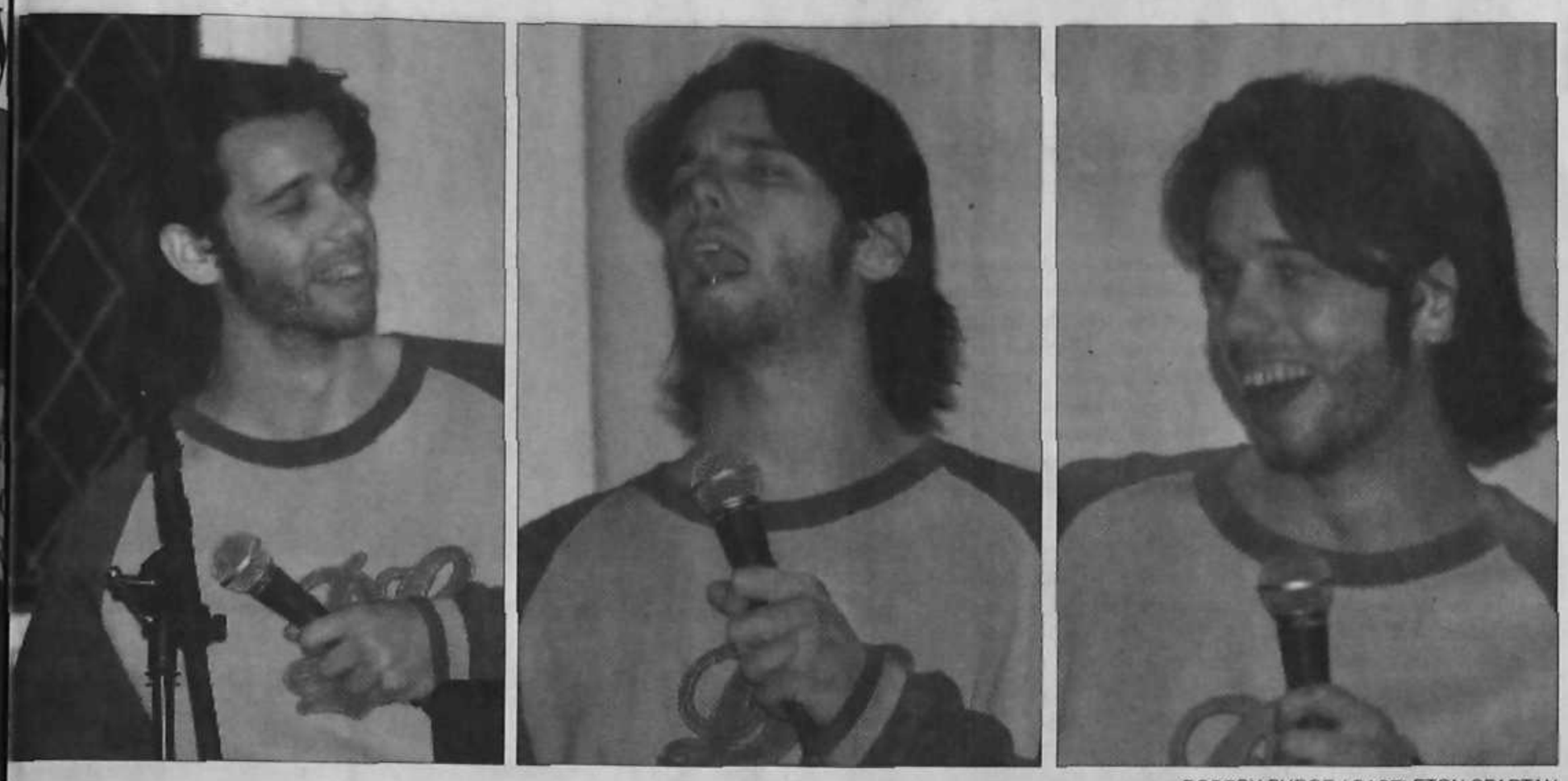

ROBERY BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

The many faces of Castleton's own Doug Phillips, fondly known across campus a "D-Phresh."

CSC keeping things Phresh

By Molly Fraher
Castleton Spartan

Still all dressed up from his induction to Castleton's history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta, Doug Phillips sits at his kitchen table, donning a backwards, baby blue trucker hat.

This is no ordinary cap however; this hat has been personalized with the phrase "D-Phresh" embroidered on it in red stitching.

"My friend from back home coined the phrase back in high school," Phillips said. "It's just stuck ever since."

Phillips, a sophomore at Castleton, is a native of Tinton Falls, N.J., and the youngest of four siblings.

"I'm the baby," he said with a grin.

Known to many around campus as "Phresh" or "D-Phresh," Phillips is involved in several activities and clubs.

History professor Carrie Waara acknowledges the talents of her history major advisee.

"I think Doug has a great deal to offer the world," she said. "He's curious and interested in the world around him."

Phillips said he became interested in Castleton after a representative visited his high school to promote the college.

"I came to Castleton because I enjoyed the all-around setting," said Phillips. "I like the classroom size and the location and I'm a skier."

Despite two surgeries and a number of bolts and screws in his back, Phillips conquered the task of learning how to walk again, after he was the victim of a head on collision back in high school.

"I played three varsity sports," he said. "But after the accident, it kind of made me realize I had to step it up."

And step it up he did.

Phillips, who also happens to hold the title of an Eagle Scout, is involved in both the One in Four and C.H.A.N.G.E Initiative groups here on campus, which strive to create awareness and support for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

"Things have happened in the past to people I know," said Phillips. "It's nothing to joke about, you've got to take it seriously."

Both groups usually meet weekly and spread awareness by speaking to residence halls and FYS groups.

"It's fun to see him thinking about something and then get engaged in a fascinating conversation about a topic you had no idea he was involved in," Waara said.

Phillips also enjoys doing stand up comedy Thursday evenings at Pub Night, but don't let the fun loving attitude fool you.

"He's the perfect balance between the class clown and the person who really cares about everyone and has a strong passion for people," said sophomore Shelby LaCroix. "He's an all around good guy."

Phillips would also be found lifeguarding at Castleton's pool if it had remained open, and every now and then does a little bit of disc jockeying at WIUV.

He's also been involved in a few of Castleton's Theatre productions as well.

"My experiences here have helped me become a real people person," said Phillips. "Castleton is a small community and I love to get along with most people."

Buckets and Tap Shoes set to bring the noise to Casella

By Jessica Lawrenson
Castleton Spartan

Imagine electric guitars, keyboard, trumpet, bass, percussion and tap shoes on the Casella Theater together.

Got it?

Good because this will be happening on April 30 when Buckets and Tap Shoes comes to perform.

"They are amazingly energetic" said Mariko Hancock of the Fine Arts Center Box Office.

Buckets and Tap Shoes is a group of five men from Minneapolis including two brothers who teamed up with their three friends. They began in 1997.

This group uses the everyday instruments but also uses the not so everyday ones. Electric guitars and keyboards are used along with five gallon buckets, trashcans, metal cans, barrels and just about anything else they can get a hold of.

Rhythmic tap dance also brings something special to what they do. Some vocal is incorporated but from the sounds of the sample music on the Buckets and Tap Shoes myspace page it is more of an instrumental group.

This group has won a few awards like the Best of the Fringe award in 2007. They have also have had great reviews from the New York Times, New York Observer and the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

This performance counts as a soundings event for those who are short some soundings shows. For others it is ten dollars for adults, seven for seniors and five dollars for students and children under the age of twelve.

Buckets and Tap Shoes has videos and samples of songs on their Myspace page. So if you would like to check the band out for yourself before they come to Castleton you may do so on their Myspace page, Myspace.com/BucketsandTapshoes

Comic Review

By Wendy Young
Castleton Spartan

One thing that is popular on the Internet nowadays is web-comics. Once there are enough pages, a comic is often printed in book format. One such comic is "Looking For Group" by Ryan Sohmer and Lar Desouza. It can be found on Lfgcomic.com. At this point there are currently over 200 pages to read for free online. Also, books one and two have been published.

"Looking For Group" is a story about an odd mish-mash of characters. The first characters introduced are Cale the elf and Richard, the undead warlock. Cale is idealistic and wants to help people, whereas Richard simply likes to kill things. Richard's killing is frowned upon, but in this alternate world, it is understood that things like that happen.

On their travels, these unlikely companions run into a priestess, a dwarf, a Minotaur-type man and others. At first, the group doesn't seem to be travelling for any particular purpose. Slowly, they all gain their reasons, even if some of them are rather odd; like Richard deciding that his battle cry and mission would be "for pony."

It is funny, interesting, has decent art, and worth the read.

Scatterbrained

Terry Badman

For the love of Mr. Rogers

I watched a ton of TV as a kid.

My Saturday mornings consisted of me consuming several large bowls of Frutti Pebbles or Frosted Flakes while sitting on our old, ragged and musty couch.

Meanwhile, my innocent, unwavering, gaze fixed itself on the warm, comforting, cartoon glow flickering from my living room television set.

Saturdays were sacred. They were the one sure thing a kid could count on after tackling the mental death-march that was the seemingly endless school week.

My developing brain digested everything from "Ducktales" to "X-Men" – from "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" to "Gummi Bears" – and turned it into a mind-feeding buffet of seemingly useless knowledge that, to this day, I can still recall at the most random of moments.

I learned a lot from the ol' idiot box, but few TV shows crafted my personality more than "Sesame Street" and "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

"Sesame Street" taught me that everyone was different, but in a good way. School yard fights generally involved the bigger, tougher, kid shoving grass, dirt, or gravel down the quiet, misfit kid's shirt.

"Sesame Street" taught me that tough-on-the-outside kids were generally unhappy cowards on the inside. I learned to ignore them, and eventually began to feel a slight bit sorry for them, as they usually had some sort of problems at home.

And while some may argue that excessive amounts of television as a child may have affected my attention span, I credit my desire for a variety of experiences and change to "Sesame Street," who always encouraged pursuing a vast wealth of cultural knowledge.

"Mr. Rogers," on the other hand, taught me to hate puppets.

All right, so that's not entirely true. To me, the worst part of each episode was the Magical World of Make Believe. I didn't care about the trolley. I didn't care about King Friday. And I didn't care about live actors socializing with hand puppets.

But the rest of the show was great. To this day, Mr. Rogers always seems to make me feel a little better about life in general when I come across an old episode clip on YouTube.

Fred Rogers had this way of speaking to the camera that made you feel like he was talking directly to you through the TV screen. I still find myself occasionally talking back when he asks a question. Hey, at least I can admit it.

But he taught me to chill out when life decides to swell up and kick you in the proverbial gonads. Whenever I was feeling down and out or felt like tearing the heads off of my G.I. Joes, there was Mr. Rogers, telling me how special and cool I was.

Laugh all you want. Go ahead. I'll give you a minute.

But I can't deny the impact that these shows had on me as a kid. I doubt anyone who watched them growing up can. There was just something comforting about them. They made you feel in place.

But scarffing down several bowls of Capn' Crunch never hurt anyone, either.

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Captain back in VT

Continued from page 1 . .

lips replied, "anything but the signs!"

Capt. Phillips is a private man who has shrugged off the hero label that the nation has adhered to him. He has yet to do the media circuit, and Mariah said he probably won't. This has left many wondering, who is Richard Phillips?

Mariah, a self-proclaimed "Daddy's girl" who calls her father by his first name because it "seems to get his attention better than Dad," glows when she talks about him.

"Richard's a big jokester," she said, laughing. "Out on the sea he's serious, but at home… he plays basketball, he loves watching the Celtics and Seinfeld. In the winter, he and I go snowboarding. He always loses me in the woods, and then he'll pop back up and be like, 'Where'd you go?' Where'd I go?" Mariah laughs, "He lost me! I was pulling myself out of a foot of powder."

And while he may shun the hero label, Mariah is quick to point out that he is one – and was one to her even before his capture.

"He's always been my hero. He's my dad. He's my best friend. If he helped me with my math homework, he'd be a hero for that," she said.

But, having to spend five days captive in a lifeboat, you have to wonder what was going through Capt. Phillips' head.

And you'll have to keep wondering.

He has not talked about his ordeal to the media, or even to his family, Mariah said.

"When he got home…it was like he never left," Mariah said. "He was the same as always, just joking and laughing. I guess I expected him to be a little quieter, but he just wound down, had a few beers."

Finally at home in Underhill, Vt., he had a hankering for chicken-pot pie, brownies and a couple of Labatt Blues, she said.

The only real talk of the ordeal dealt with his glasses. She told of her family joking about the first picture the media had taken of her father after his rescue.

"I noticed he looked very exhausted in that picture, but Mom noticed that he wasn't wearing his glasses and she said he probably lost them,' Mariah said. As it turns out, he did lose them in his failed attempt to jump from the lifeboat.

What do you do with a captured pirate?

Mariah says that she doesn't know what should happen to the pirate who was captured the day that her father was rescued.

The pirate in U.S. custody, Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse, was charged in New York, where he is currently facing the maximum sentence of life in prison.

Perhaps surprisingly, she admits that she does have a little sympathy for Muse.

"In these times, it's very sad to know that people resort to piracy to get by, but it doesn't give anyone an excuse," she said with a hint of anger.

Mariah discussed how Somalia is an unfortunate country, but that piracy is nothing new. What happened to her father is a huge wake-up call and should be taken as such, she said.

"I've always heard about pirate activity from my dad," she said. "But I never heard about it from our government or the media."

She questions why a personal attack on our country is a bigger deal than when it happens to ships from other countries.

"You don't hear about those other ships," she said. "Something needs to happen. Something needs to be fixed, but it won't take a day."

But about this particular pirate, Mariah believes what goes around comes around. "It won't be on my watch," she said, but he'll get what he deserves.

Hounded by the media

Mariah describes her hometown as a small community that likes privacy.

"Mom kept saying, 'don't say anything -- keep it on the down low.' We can handle private problems with our family," Mariah said, "but this was out of control."

When she says out of control, she is also referring to the media.

At home, Mariah said she disguised herself when she left the house.

"I didn't leave the house without sunglasses or a hat on!" she said, adding that they also had to stop answering the phone.

Her father's face has graced covers of newspapers and magazines and fronted countless online web pages across the world. It's unwanted ink for the family, but they can joke about it.

"People magazine," Mariah laughs, "it's what women read when they're sitting in a hair salon getting their hair dried. He was on the cover of People this week and Mom said, 'Look Richard, women will be looking at you while they're getting their hair done!'"

Regarding the family's isolation from the media, communication Professor David Blow said that as a journalist, he's a bit conflicted, because he enjoys telling great stories, and Capt. Phillips has one great story. "But I respect him. He sounds like a fun guy to sit and have a beer and a laugh with."

Mariah said it was frustrating that the media wouldn't leave her family alone.

"The Early Show sent us hats in the mail," she said. "Good Morning America kept sending me messages on Facebook."

The media also hounded Castleton State College, where Mariah is a graphic design student.

The school administration -- as well as some students and faculty, fielded calls from national media. No one gave out any information in exchange for his or her own 15-minutes of fame.

Castleton's president David Wolk said that a major national news network was interested in using footage of the Castleton campus on the evening news as a backdrop for a story and the college declined.

"Mariah deserved her privacy to be protected and respected," Wolk said. "I would want the same for my own daughter if she were in a similar situation, so that's how we approached it."

The effort wasn't lost on Mariah.

"I appreciate so much what President Wolk did," Mariah said. "And I'm so thankful that the school was so persistent about not letting the media on campus. Things get so blown out of proportion. I didn't want to come back to school and have it be a circus."

Wolk stated that Mariah is an impressive young woman.

"I have great admiration for the way she conducted herself throughout this ordeal...just like her Dad and the rest of the family," he said

Blow said it is also refreshing to see how the Phillips family has handled the media attention.

"Some would glom onto these 15 minutes of fame and take it for all it's worth. They just want to be left alone."

Mariah said although things are calming down a little, she's just waiting for the next big headline so her family's story isn't in the spotlight at all.

"I can't wait 'till Octo-mom has 20 kids or something," she said, "I liked it a lot more when not everyone knew who I was."

Returning to the high seas

Mariah is sure that her father will be returning to the sea soon.

"He loves the ocean," she reiterates again and again.

Capt. Phillip's family is aware of his love for his job, yet, she said there is trepidation about him going back to work.

"Mom told him, 'Stay in Morrisville pond — don't go out in any big water," Mariah said.

When Capt. Phillips will return to work is still up in the air, but he wants to go soon, she said, because if he doesn't he'll have to make up the time in the summer.

"And in the summer we go wake boarding and tubing on Lake Champlain," she said, "and he wants to be around for that," Mariah said.

As for how his family will feel with Capt. Phillips back in the water, Mariah thinks they will be a little more concerned than in years past.

"When I hit the double-digits, like 10 or 11," she said, "I would think, 'He'll come back, he always comes back.'

Now I'll be wondering a bit more — what's going on in those open waters."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ROY VESTRI

Roy Vestrich and his wife Dawn are reflected in a window in France in 1984.

Vestrich hopes to be published

Continued from page 1 . .

"I may have fantasized life as a professional surf bum and wandering artist, but I always planned on going to college," he said.

He graduated high school in 1971, and immediately attended Bard College in New York. He had been writing all of his life so it only made sense for him to get a degree in literature and language.

"Ever since I knew how to put words on a page, I have been writing. It just feels like it was something I had to do."

In 1979, he got accepted to the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing program for poetry at UMASS Amherst. He completed the degree in 1983 and decided to go for his doctorate degree, which he received in 1988.

For a brief period, after his first four years in school, Vestrich moved to Boston for three years and then to France for almost one. During this time, a lot of his attention was focused on his artwork, whether it be writing poetry or doing paintings.

He began his career at Castleton just after receiving his doctorate, where he started out teaching various writing courses, effective speaking, and some communication courses. In 1989, he started the film studies minor, or "his baby" as he likes to refer to it. The communication program turned into a department in 1993 and turned into his new Atlantic ocean. Here he was able to teach what he truly enjoyed -- script workshops and film classes.

Dawn, also a teacher, likes to jokingly say, "As he teaches communication, he can watch TV or movies all weekend and claim that he's working, while I have to grade economics exams."

Robert Gershon is not only a fellow professor at Castleton, but also a good friend of Vestrich since 1988. Like everyone who has come in contact with Vestrich, Gershon said he knows just how much he cares about his students as well as his colleagues.

"Everybody loves working with Roy. He is very enthusiastic in a laid back manner," Gershon said.

Students feed off his enthusiasm.

"Take a class with Roy and it is apparent that he gets excited about you getting excited," former student Tyler Rudder said.

Vestrich said the favorite part of his job, what makes his job worth doing, is when a student is truly enthusiastic about something they have written, directed or watched.

"Roy is an awesome teacher because you know he cares about the effort you put into things, and it makes you feel good getting a compliment for a job that you know you did well," Rudder said.

After watching thousands of films, Vestrich has the ability to look at movies in a way a way that a normal viewer wouldn't. Rather than simply judging a movie for its entertainment value, he evaluates every possible aspect of a film like the way it's shot and what the director is trying to get across. Although he doesn't have a favorite movie, one film he truly loves is The Graduate.

"I've been showing 'The Graduate' as the opening film in my intro to film class for about 15 years now, and though I could probably recite the script from memory, I am always amazed that each viewing I see something new or fresh in terms of the film's visual style. Perhaps part of that is that as I age, my perceptions of the characters and my sympathies towards their situations also change. There are only a few films that hold up so well to repeated viewings and keep revealing themselves anew. It's much like listening to a good piece of music," he said.

His knowledge of films and experience is not lost on students.

Dan Fisher, another former student, said "We'll discuss a movie in class for about an hour, and I only have like five minutes of stuff to say. It's amazing how in-depth he can go into a movie."

These days Vestrich is trying to focus more energy on getting his work published. In 1991, he was one of about 10 northeast writers competitively selected to participate in the Warner Brothers Television Comedy Writers' Workshops. As part of the deal, he had an options contract with Warner Brothers for his scripts. Although no of his work was produced, got a lot of experience and understanding of the industry, which in turn has been very useful in his work wit students.

In 1999, one of Roy's plays titled "Green Mountain Bucks" was selected fo presentation at the Edward Albee Theater Festival in Valdez, Alaska.

"This is a week long festival that was for playwrights what Sundance is for filmmakers," he said.

Throughout his life, the 55-year-old Vestrich has had a huge infatuation with poetry and art. During his early surfing days, he liked to do pen and ink sort of sketches, M.C. Escher style often creating psychedelic surrealist drawings. During his college years, his energy shifted gears, focusing more on painting. Painters ranging from Matisse to De Kooning heavily influenced him, and because of these influences he started doing a lot of abstract figure studies, as well as large grid paintings, he said.

Lately, he has been focusing his attention on landscapes and waterscapes. He enjoys exploring the relationship between composition and pain texture. He said he believes that "to paraphrase the abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock, I don't want to re-create an experience in paint, but expertise the act of paint and allow my work to show the process of construction."

He has a studio/writing cabin that he built near his house in Middlebury where he loves spending time working on all his aspects of art.

Although he has come a long way from hanging ten back in the day Vestrich is still the definition of extreme His more recent hobbies now include a number of outdoor activities like sea kayaking, biking, and hiking. He also recently took up sailing, purchasing a small 20-foot "pocket-cruiser" sailboat, sailing for five weeks from Florida to Vermont.

He may not be surfing anymore in the dead of winter, but sailing 1,800 miles is arguably just as impressive.

Inside Sports

Four straight for tennis

Continued from page 8 . .

by Sullivan, whose 6-2, 6-2 drubbing of Thomas's number one player, Jeremy Cliff, set the tone for the rest of the final match. Levine, Garrit, Maranda and Panasci followed Sullivan with straight set wins.

In number two doubles, Garrit and Panasci tied it at one game apiece, setting up a tie-breaking number three doubles. Gray and Levine handled their competition with an 8-1 win, securing the final point for the 7-2 NAC Championship win.

This championship win was the perfect way to end a perfect season, especially for the four seniors on the team. Sullivan, Panasci, Maranda and Gray walk away from Castleton men's tennis on top of the NAC with the sweet taste of victory and perfection.

Lady Spartans win first ever NAC championship

Continued from page 8 . .

match up for the NEWLA on Wednesday, April 29 against Westfield State. In the previous match up, Castleton won 11-9 against Westfield.

"They [Westfield] are going to be looking for revenge. We just need to get our game going and play Castleton lacrosse," Haggerty said, adding where the current focus of the team has shifted to. "The NEWLA is where we really want to win."

Campus Quips

Sarah Kenney

Question:
What are three foods you're looking forward to eating this summer?

Tyler Mills

Barbeques, steak and some good pizza.. real New York pizza.

Michael O'Donnel

Hot dogs, BBQ ribs, and Chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream.

Luis Robataille

Wings, six-foot subs from Subway, and watermelon

Bob Pelletier

Homemade burgers on the grill, Ben & Jerry's icecream on the regular hopefully, and my mom's homemade macaroni and cheese.

Jacky Prevoky

Filet mignon, summer pasta, and mac & cheese

Campus happenings

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Professor Trish VanDerspuy (far left) congratulates new members of the Womens Sudies Honor Society: Jaklyn Van Manen, Melissa Pope, Katie Kraussmann, Hilary Bemis and Brittany Balla last Wednesday (Above). The SAAB-hosted Chia-Pet making event in Ellis Hall where students gathered to make them for free (below left).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SARAH BACKUS

Students & falculty participate in Relay for Life on April 18th

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Ben Ian Guihan and his father entertain the crowd duiring Pub Night on April 23 (above). Castleton student nose manualing his way through campus (left).

Confessions of a Bud Light girl

By Melissa Pope
Castleton Spartan

It was an average day, just hanging out, so I decided to spend some quality time on my Facebook.

I spotted a message in my inbox, which is not a normal occurrence. Inbox messages are usually something juicy, something that people don't want everyone else to see, so naturally I got a little excited.

Little did I know that it would hold an ideal summer opportunity in the message.

"Sorry, this is random but I work for a marketing company out of Boston called Preston Marketing Concepts and I am looking to hire sales models in Vermont," stated the message from Shannon Santamaria, northern New England manager.

She then went on to describe the position.

"Pretty much what you would do is go into bars or liquor stores and execute a sampling for two hours at a time," Santamaria said. "You always work with another girl in a bar and you work alone in a liquor store. You would be distributing samples as well as giveaways like t-shirts, pint glasses, stickers, key chains and hats."

"You will also be responsible for educating consumers about the brand you are promoting and gathering feedback about it as well," she continued. "It is very flexible and we schedule you around your availability each week, all through email."

Needless to say, this message intrigued me and a few other girls as well. Five girls from Castleton ended up writing back to this message and agreed to attend a training day in Brattleboro.

Jillian Gee, Ashley Hertford, Meghan Roussin, Kristina Bliss, and I all piled into my Honda and made the trek to the training session. One by one, we all click clacked our way into the room in our heels, and not only were we met with a free dinner, there was a sampling of Anheuser Busch products for the ones who were 21 of course.

They educated us on the importance of a good brew and taught us all how Budweiser is the king of all beers.

"It's going to be an easy way to make money and have fun at the same time," Gee said.

Seeing the message on Facebook, it all seemed too good to be true. But after talking with the management and administration in charge we all realized it was legit and an amazing opportunity.

"I feel as if the job will be something new and interesting to do instead of what I have previously done for work," said Roussin.

"I think that I will have an awesome time doing this job and I think this will make my summer a lot more enjoyable," Hertford said. "How many people can say their summer job was promoting beer in bars for money?"

Not only would we be having a sick summer job, we would be the first group of girls to represent Anheuser Busch products in Vermont. We all plan to set the bar high for anyone coming behind us.

Did I mention our first uniform attire? White shorts, white and blue striped tank with Bud Light written across the chest, and of course to top it all off, a sailor hat.

Every girl is going to want to be us, and everyone else is just going to want a piece of us.

Jealous much?

SOUNDING OFF

The Place for Soundings Information & Feedback

Event Countdown:
1 event to go

COMING EVENTS

Thursday April 30, Casella Theater
Buckets and Tap Shoes Dance Performance
****tickets required****

QUOTABLE LINES

From Calico Winds:

The music played by Calico Winds blended a plethora of "colors" and "textures" in the pieces they chose to play. This quintet covered all the moods and sounds of music that could be accomplished with the eight instruments they had. Then when I thought I had seen it all they ran around like sheep with their reeds adding that last "color" and "texture." - **David Richards**

Four times as sweet

Tennis claims fourth straight NAC title

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ENNIS DULING

Justin Garritt returns a shot in a recent match.

Rob Doran
Castleton Spartan

The Spartan men's tennis team wrapped up a perfect season with a near-flawless win against Thomas College to reel in its fourth straight North Atlantic Conference championship.

Led by senior CJ Sullivan's tournament MVP performance, the Spartans rallied to dominate their opponents, defeating Johnson State College 9-0 and Thomas 7-2 in the playoffs.

The weekend began for the Spartans on Saturday morning as they rolled past the fourth-seeded Johnson State 9-0, sweeping all sets but one. Robbie Gray, Willie Levine, Justin Garritt, Jessee Maranda and Ted Panasci recorded victories. Sullivan suffered the only loss. It took more than just singles play to win this championship. The team doubles pairing of Sullivan/Maranda, Garritt/Panasci and Gray/Levine came up with big wins to propel the Spartans to their ultimate goal, a NAC final appearance.

On Sunday, number two-seeded Thomas College awaited the top-seeded Spartans in the NAC final match.

In singles action, the Spartans crushed Thomas 5-1, led

Continued on page 6 . . .

Spartans silence Monks, head to NAC semifinals

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

The Castleton men's lacrosse team hosted St. Joseph's College for the quarterfinal round of the North Atlantic Conference tournament on April 25. The Monks drew first blood about five minutes into the contest, but from that point on, the Spartans took control of the game, advancing to the NAC semifinal game with a 22-8 victory.

Jeremy Peyton led all scorers with three goals and two assists, matching his previous five-point performance against St. Joseph's.

"We kinda talked at half, and we were a little upset with how things were. We were trying to force things. I think halftime gave us a chance to relax," Peyton said about the boost in tempo at the start of the second half.

Once the third quarter started, Castleton sat in the driver seat as 10 different players reached the scoring column.

The Spartans went on an 8-0 scoring run as sophomore Craig MacDerment won an outstanding 87 percent of face-offs taken.

The defensive play of senior defenders Patrick Duffy and Jason Jakimer was solid once the Spartans' transition game was being executed. Jakimer provided an offensive surge to the transition play after picking up two ground balls with his long pole, and outrunning St. Joseph's midfield on both possessions.

"It's going to get intense," said senior attack Phil Barry about the remainder of the NAC tournament being hosted by Castleton. "We're up for it though; we're definitely ready for it. We gotta finish them [Ida] off and win our first NAC title."

Junior attack Korey Counos also finished the game with a hat trick and assisted on one goal. Junior midfielders Mike Martinez and Kirk Bolduc scored hat tricks of their own in the win. Barry scored two goals and assisted on one goal, senior attackman Ryan Bartlett scored two goals, as did sophomore attack Mike DelDotto.

Castleton will host the NAC semifinal round against in-state rival Johnson State College. The Spartans escaped the previous game against Johnson with an 11-9 win, the closest contest between the schools in NAC play since a 2004 matchup that ended in a 12-11 Spartan win.

"That game was just a fluke; we're really so much better than them," said goalie Mike Mamunes.

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Women's LAX celebrates their first NAC championship (above). Kaitlin Hayes celebrates with goalkeeper Francesca Mazzola (below).

CSC claims first NAC crown

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

The Spartans were being matched on the field, and Husson scored two unanswered goals to jump ahead 4-3. The Spartans, though, made a surge as four different scorers started a seven-goal run for Castleton, which was capped off by a goal coming from sophomore attack Elizabeth Haggerty with two seconds left in the first half of the North Atlantic Conference championship game.

Husson struck back at the start of the second half, bringing the lead back to five goals. After the goal, sophomore midfielder Marie VanDerKar scored, beginning an eight-goal run for the Spartans. During the run, VanDerKar completed her hat trick, and Haggerty tallied her fifth goal of the game. The Spartans let two more goals in, but the 19-7 lead held and solidified Castleton as North Atlantic Conference champions.

"It's just awesome already winning a conference championship. I think we have some momentum going now," VanDerKar said.

Haggerty led all scorers with five goals while VanDerKar and junior attack Stephanie Pearce both scored hat tricks. Freshman defenseman Angelica Mazzola also scored a hat trick for the Spartans. DeeDee Schroeder, a senior defender, and junior attack Jennifer Macari both added two goals to the scoring.

"It's stressful playing goalie. I'd say 75 percent is mental and the other 25 percent is skill. You constantly need to keep your head in the game and control your emotion and not let it get the better of you," said senior goaltender Francesca Mazzola. "In a back and forth game it's really stressful. You just have to recoup and reset and not let that one goal get you down. You have to be prepared for the next shot that comes."

Castleton went undefeated in NAC play this season, and went 6-1 in the New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance. The Spartans will host the semifinal

Continued on page 6 . . .

Baseball rolling, cautious heading into NAC playoffs

John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Kevin McPeek beats the tag against the Purple Knights.

At the beginning of spring, the Castleton Spartans were right where they wanted to be. They were returning to action as the defending North Atlantic Conference champions, they had plenty of players from last season's team and they were picked four votes to one by the other NAC coaches to repeat as champions.

But despite all that, coach Ted Shipley spoke about his team with a cautious voice in late March, saying that the team's lack of experience could be a problem.

"We have quite a few players that have not played enough baseball in their lives to be ready and able to compete initially successfully at this level," he said.

At the time, the Spartans' record reflected Shipley's concerns as they were just 3-7 against non-conference teams.

Since Shipley spoke those words, though, the Spartans have kicked into a higher gear.

The Spartans have just finished their last regular season games, and their record now shows that they have enough experience to dominate the NAC.

They are 23-12 overall, and they have a 15-1 NAC record, earning them the coveted top seed as they anticipate the playoffs.

The Spartans have looked particularly experienced at crushing the ball.

After suffering from a slow start offensively, the Spartans have found their groove, and their bats have been lethal over the second half of the season.

In the team's first 17 games, the offense drove in just 82 runs. In the past 18 games, though, the offense has hammered opposing pitching and driven in an astounding 227 runs.

Matt Eisenhuth, who is leading the Spartans in batting average at .428, spoke cautiously just as Shipley did a month ago about the Spartans' future.

"We have accomplished our first goal, and that was to get number-one seed in the NAC. But the competition on the way wasn't of the caliber we want to be winning against," he said. "I think the conference playoffs have the potential to cause some difficulties for us. We have beat up on a lot of these teams during the regular season. This only makes us the team that everyone is out to get. They have nothing to lose."

Eisenhuth said that in order to avoid an upset in the tournament, the Spartans will need to focus on the future and not be content with their past performances.

"The most important thing is for us to forget the regular season because it doesn't matter anymore. Scoring 15 runs off their number-four pitcher means nothing now. We need to beat their best and take no one lightly."

The Spartans will get their chance when the NAC tournament begins on May 1.

The Rooster

Steve McNulty

For a while my hopes ve
high. He was shipped 3,
miles away to his new hom
the Pacific Coast. He left
American League altoget
He now sports Dodger b
Out of sight, out of min
right?

But boy was I wrong. M
ny Ramirez, the bumbling
stumbling outfielder with
IQ of a Chia Pet, is still
ing the New York Yankees
realized on Friday night, as
Yankees visited Fenway
their first meeting of the sea
against the Boston Red S
that the ghost of Manny
looms somewhere in that sta
um (probably urinating ins
the Green Monster as Bec
takes the mound.)

The gloves came off e
this year. Before the game th
was speculation about whet
Joba Chamberlain would br
back Red Sox slugger Ke
Youkilis. The two have sha
words in the past, and w
Chamberlain's growing re
tation as a head-hunter, t
match up was sure to igr
some fireworks. Needless
say, I love this stuff. Here
are in late April, with over 1
games remaining in this ma
thon of an MLB season, a
this rivalry is already hot.

However, to my disappoi
ment, no wild pitches w
thrown, and no mounds w
rushed. It was a heated gam
but more in the sense of a t
ditional Yankees vs. Red S
battle. The game remain
close throughout, and when t
Sox tied the game up with t
runs in the bottom of the si
inning, I knew this promised
be another instant classic
the vault. The Yanks retaliat
with two in the seventh, an
was sure the game was all
over. I should have known b
ter.

Bottom of the ninth, t
outs, Yankees up by tw
Mariano Rivera on the mour
Jason Bay approaches the ba
ter's box, and I say out lou
in a room full of Sox fans, "
least you don't have Manny
butcher us anymore."

Yes, I actually said that, a
I apologize to all Yankee fa
because a couple of pitch
later, Bay annihilates a Rive
fastball to dead-center fie
The game goes to extras, a
Youkilis, the lumberjack turn
first baseman, ends it with
walk-off home run.

But what does this have
do with Manny? Jason Ba
came to Boston last year in a
way trade between the Sox, t
Pittsburgh Pirates and the L.
Dodgers.

I rejoiced when I heard th
news that the long-time Yanke
killer Ramirez was headed f
Beverly Hills in exchange f
a rather obscure outfielder wh
had struggled with injuries f
the past two seasons.

Now here I am, watchin
replays of Friday night's gam
and assessing the situatio
Manny and former Yankee
skipper Joe Torre are laughin
all the way to the bank in sunn
beautiful Los Angeles. Mar
ny's replacement just jacke
a game-saving home run o
Rivera, who continues to blo
saves against the Red Sox lik
it's a fad or something.

And worst of all, the Yan
kees are spending money lik
Barack Obama for a new sta
dium and aged All-Stars tha
can't seem to put togethe
back-to-back wins. Basically,
wish the Red Sox had Mann
back. If the Yanks are goin
to lose anyway, I'd at least lik
something to laugh at.

Castleton Spartan

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 | CastletonSpartan.com | Castleton, Vermont

Next stop: Castleton

By Maria Arnot
Castleton Spartan

May 9 marked the second year that Castleton has celebrated National Rail Day and it came at a pretty convenient time for owners of the Castleton Depot.

The prospect that future generations of Castleton students and Vermonters might have a rail stop is in clear sight, as the Castleton Depot is on its way to becoming a permanent stop along Amtrak's Ethan Allen Expressway.

"I think with this event they are trying to stir up interest and show that a lot of people could benefit from a train stop here," said Castleton English Professor Burnham Holmes.

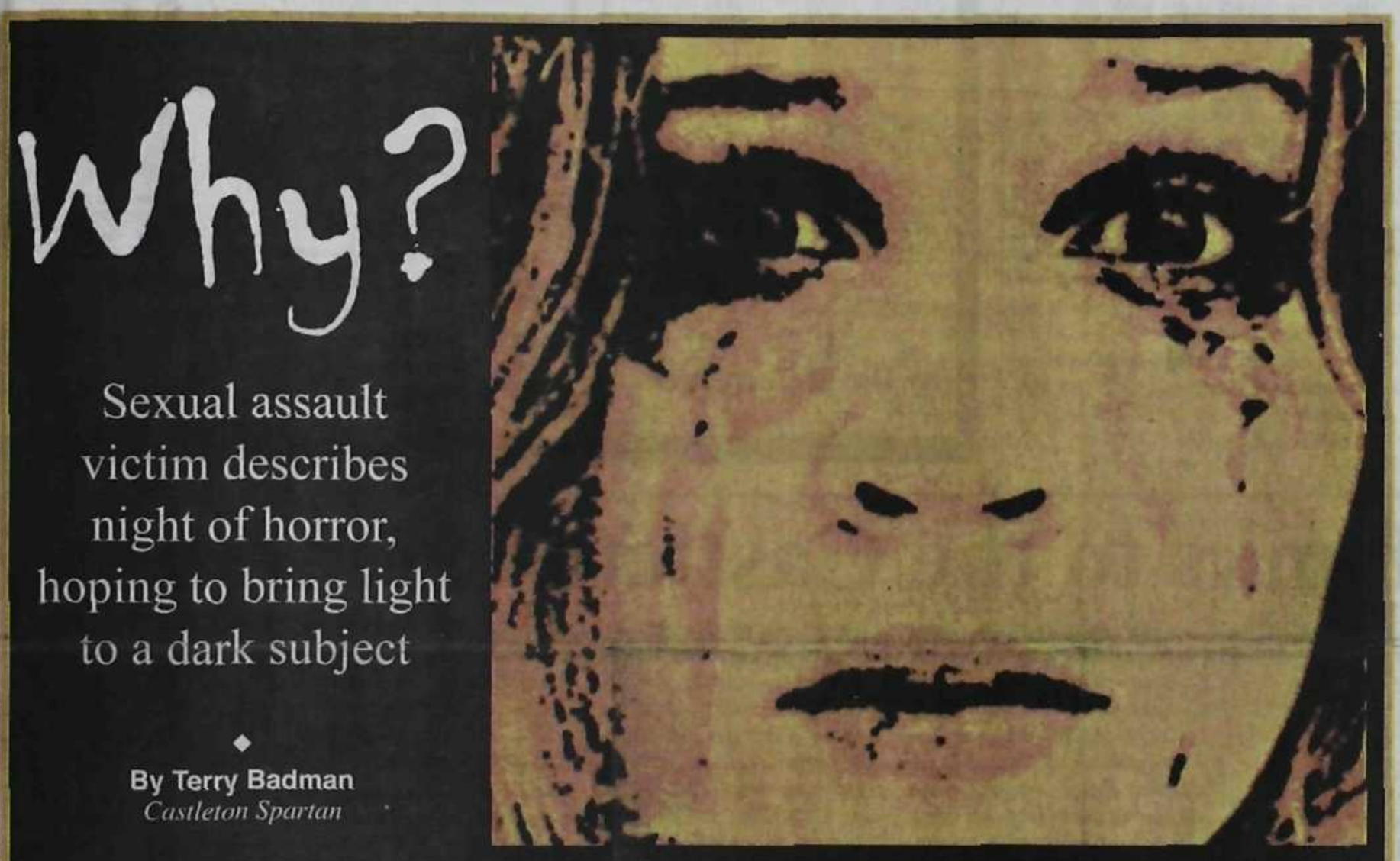
The Amtrak train traveled from Rutland to Castleton around 11 a.m. on Saturday, welcomed by sunlight, music, cheers and a vast amount of support.

On board were various speakers for the event, including Secretary of Transportation David Dill, who represented Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas who was unable to attend the event due to a last-minute legislation issue.

The Castleton Depot, which

Continued on page 6 . . .

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN
Fans aplaud as the train stops at Castleton Station.



Sexual assault victim describes night of horror, hoping to bring light to a dark subject

By Terry Badman
Castleton Spartan

Editor's note: some of the names in this story have been changed out of respect for maintaining the individual's personal privacy.

Nothing bad could happen. They're my friends, Vanessa thought.

Upon returning to her Vermont home, the college sophomore decided to spend part of her winter break mingling with her hometown friends.

Most of the time, she said, small town Vermont didn't offer much in the way of entertainment on cold winter nights.

One evening, she met with a handful of friends at an apartment and planned to kill time the only way they could think of – playing drinking games.

Vanessa knew she couldn't handle excessive amounts of booze, but the self-proclaimed "lightweight" didn't want to appear weak in front of her friends. Instead, she sat down and chose to go for broke, hoping to show off her college-trained drinking skills to her peers.

Several drinks later, she found herself incredibly hammered.

Vanessa lost control of her body to the drunken spins, falling quick and hard out of her chair. Her friends carried her off to the bedroom and laid her down on the bed, hoping to sober her up with sleep.

Vanessa said she remembers coming in and out of consciousness, waking only to the sound of her friends occasionally opening the door to make sure she was all right. But as the night wore on, they stopped checking.

Vanessa says she eventually blacked out, falling into a deep, drunken, paralyzing, sleep.

It was during this time, she thinks, that her friend Mike snuck into the room and made his move.

Vanessa woke up in incredible pain, pinned to the mattress as Mike laid his body's weight on top of her.

Dazed and disoriented, Vanessa began to cry. Hearing this, her friends barged into the room, ripped Mike off of her and dragged him out of the room.

Through the haze of confusion and tears, Vanessa noticed her pants had been removed. Mike's extreme and excessive use of lustful force had left her bloodied and sore.

The reality of rape

Vanessa's story is more common than many realize. Her traumatic tale recently came to light in a random and casual conversation among a small group of her Castleton State College friends. Out of the five girls in the group, four were victims of sexual assaults similar to Vanessa.

This came as a shock, as well as a relief, to those in the group, as they realized they were not alone in their experiences.

According to One in Four, a national not-for-profit organization that battles against sexual and domestic abuse, one in every four college women are sexually assaulted. But for several reasons, such incidents often go unreported.

"Rape is the most unreported crime because girls are afraid to tell people," said Robert Burge, a Castleton junior and member of the campus' One In Four advocacy

Continued on page 6 . . .

Students rally against sexual and domestic violence

By Shelby LaCroix
Castleton Spartan

One in four college women have been raped or sexually assaulted.

It was this very statistic that led Castleton junior Robert Burge to participate in the newly established CSC peer group One in Four when it began last fall.

Burge took a Women's Studies course during his sophomore year at Castleton, upon which his professor, Sanjukta Ghosh, recommended that he join the budding group. He attended a One in Four presentation and took part in a 20-hour training weekend with several other male students, including SGA President Ed MacNulty, Aldeberto Silva, James Vicki, and Douglas Phillips. All have since become active participants in the group.

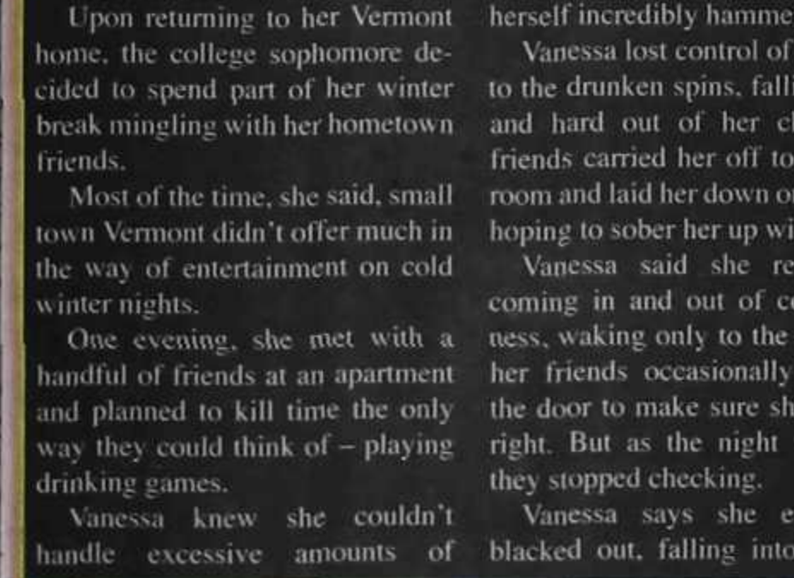
The training was led by the national One in Four organization which was traveling to various campuses across the country in an RV to raise awareness about sexual assaults.

"I never knew the statistics, all those crazy statistics," Burge said. "Five percent of all rapes result in pregnancy . . . (and) is the most unreported crime because girls start to blame themselves or people question them and all the processes (the victims) have to go through. The rape exam and how intrusive it is -- I learned all of that at the training weekend."

It was professor Linda Olson, the co-chair of the campus C.H.A.N.G.E initia-

Continued on page 6 . . .

Campus preps for commencement ceremony



TERRY BADMAN / CASTLETON SPARTAN
Crews construct the commencement tent on Monday.

By Laura Olson
Castleton Spartan

While many Castleton students are making summer plans, the graduating class of 2009 is likely making more long-term plans as it anticipates commencement on May 16.

"The class of 2009 has distinguished themselves in important ways: as outstanding citizens and students who have excelled in and out of the classroom, in community service, in the arts and in athletics," said Castleton President Dave Wolk. "I believe this is one of the most impressive groups we have ever graduated."

In addition to being exemplary students, athletes, and performers, the class of 2009 was the first class to participate in the Green Student Initiative. As freshmen, the upcoming graduates set up Slim Jim recycling bins in all of the academic and residential buildings, organized Green Mondays, and planted a tree behind the Observatory Lot.

Nearly 470 graduates will be processing Saturday on Woodruff Lawn, awaiting their diplomas as well as the commencement address by Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Leahy is distinguished as the first Democratic senator from Vermont to date and is also the fourth most senior U.S. senator.

The senator also made a brief cameo appearance in the blockbuster 2008 Batman film, "The Dark Knight," as a party guest briefly held at knifepoint by Heath Ledger's Joker character.

"Everyone knows who Patrick Leahy is," said Castleton senior Ray Boule. "I'm excited to hear his speech."

In addition to making the transition from college to the real world, the class of 2009 faces the additional challenge of entering the work force during an economic depression.

But despite some initial fears, several members of the senior class feel confident in what Castleton has given them as they prepare to graduate.

"I use a lot of what I learned from my internship at Castleton in my job now, and it's ended up making all the difference," said Dec. '08 graduate Sarah Catanese, who attended three other colleges before settling at Castleton. "It's definitely possible to be successful in this economy as long as you expand your

Continued on page 6 . .

Editorial ▷ Page 2 • News ▷ Page 3-4 • A&E ▷ Page 5 • Front & Back ▷ Page 6 • Campus ▷ Page 7 • Sports ▷ Page 8

Going forward with college knowledge

As my collegiate career nears its end, I'd like to think I could look back on the last few years and smile.

And for the most part, I can. For every bad memory or experience I've had in my time at Castleton, I've had several good ones.

I was here when the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 and watched the campus celebrate with cheers and flaming Yankees hats.

I remember waking in the early hours of my freshman year to the sound of jackhammers and dump trucks, as the construction crew hastily built the then-brand-new Castleton Hall.

I remember waking up early on a Saturday morning and taking a road trip to Taco Bell in Glens Falls, NY with my now fiancé, before there was one built in Rutland.

I remember Billy Joel's "Piano Man," Dispatch's "The General," and the endless looping of Coldplay's "Clocks" bellowing out of my Adams Hall suite on a daily basis.

It was good times for the most part. There were the occasional parties that got out of control, the friends who drank too much, the occasional flaming ping-pong balls, and the all that social drama that inhabits any college, but for the most part – it was good.

But as bittersweet as it is to be leaving Castleton, especially as the school is about to complete its Student Initiative plan, I must say I'm ready to leave.

The familiar faces I started college with have all moved on. The social cliques of freshman year have disbanded, as time and other obligations become more important than getting together for a few (dozen) rounds of beer pong.

Now there's work, job hunting, bills to pay, and a new life in the "real world" to worry about. There's little time for the ol' tomfoolery anymore.

As I walk around campus now, complete in its pretty summer greens and flowery hues, I see a lot of younger students, freshman or sophomores, who are still in that glorious carefree mindset. Their biggest concern at this point in their lives is trying to find someone of legal age to buy them booze each night.

Me, I'm past it, I suppose. I don't want to come off as the stuffy, snoot-nose elitist type who suddenly became too good or too cool to act out once in a while. But it's just not a priority in my life right now.

Did I grow . . . old?

Everyone goes through phases in life. I went through my teen and college phase just like everyone else, but now, I'm onto the next phase: finding a career I enjoy, moving away from the state I grew up in, and settling down with the future wife.

It's scary -- but in a good way.

I actually feel pretty damn prepared to face the world waiting on the opposite side of graduation. I've been living off campus for several years, worked full-time through much of school, and I've been good about paying my bills and living within my means.

I've got an awesome resume courtesy of the college and have contacts with several employers in my field.

Plus, I get to work at a beer-brewing magazine for the summer. I mean, come on. I get paid to write about beer. You couldn't ask for a more fun job than that straight out of college.

So yeah – I'm a little scared, but I'd rather be scared than comfortable at this point in my life. It's too soon to be completely comfy. Right now, my life's a lawn chair – good for the moment, but not something you'd want to have in your living room.

To quote the immortal words of Morgan Freeman: "Get busy livin', or get busy dyin'."

Goddamn right.

By David Carpenter

Special thanks to the Castleton community

This academic year is almost over and the time to go home has almost arrived. In this period of time we have experienced many wonderful things at Castleton State College and in the United States. We will never forget all these great experiences and we will always remember the people who made them possible.

We would like to thank all of the Castleton community for the wonderful year we have spent here. It's difficult to say goodbye after a fantastic year of working and studying at Castleton. Since we arrived, everybody was friendly and helpful to us. So much so that leaving all our Castleton affections behind will be a hard step to take.

We can't leave Castleton without thanking our teachers Prof. John Gillen (Effective Speaking), Prof. Richard Reardon (Behavioral Challenges) Prof. Luther Brown (Human Sexuality) Prof. William Frey (Seminar in addictions), Prof. Deborah Waggett (*Instructional Applications* of *Computers*), Prof. Drennan Spitzer (British Detective Fiction) and Prof. Andrew Alexander (*Expository and Argumentative Writing*). Thanks for your sense of humor, knowledge, and patience. We grew up enormously both personally and professionally thanks to your inspiring and motivating classes. We think that Castleton students are extremely lucky to have such an amazing faculty staff ready to help and support them any time they need.

We also want to thank the Huden and Coffee Cottage staff for the great work they have done for us. We will miss your smoothies and your great sense of humor and daily predisposition to be kind to everybody. Huden would not have been the same without the presence of Dora, Mary, Nancy, Pat and Scott.

We appreciate all the help from the Spanish community. We are grateful to Alison Welch and David Stephenson for everything they have done for the Spanish club and the radio.

Thanks to all the students who participated in the Spanish table and dance classes. Thanks to Rob Bromley who was always helping us with the dance classes and motivating people to attend them all the time. Thanks to Mel and Darla Patch who have become a second family to us.

We really enjoyed being part of the Spanish Department. We are surprised how well Castleton students speak Spanish and the high interest they have in the Hispanic cultures. They are highly motivated students who are always willing to work harder in order to be better Spanish speakers. This would not have been possible if it wasn't for the outstanding Spanish faculty staff Prof. Delma Wood and Dr. Ana Alexander.

The purpose of this letter is to give a special and warm thank to all of you and especially to Dr. Ana Alexander. Apart from being our super sor, she has been a great men for us. She is an outstandi leader who is always willi to help everybody. Thank y Ana for the wonderful time had with you, for teaching the sky is the limit, for motiv ing us to continue studying a doing the best all the time, reminding us that we have smile to the world all the ti even though not everybody w smile back, for pushing us do things we couldn't imagi we were able to do before, trusting in us from the beg ning to the end. Thank you t teaching us that life goes so fa and that we have to take adva tage of every single moment our lives. And the most impo tant thing thanks to you for b ing our friend. We are going miss you so much.

Sincerely,

Jimena Caratti and Claud Eduardo Pinto.

OVERHEARD ONLINE @ CASTLETONSPARTAN.COM

Responses to "CSC celebrates with young graduates" (4/15):

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Mentoring Program between CSC and CES. What a great way to connect with the community which doesn't always have a true picture of what goes on behind the scenes!

Being a retired teacher with 30 years at CES, I know the value of this program. Keep up the GREAT work and enjoy the kids!!!

- Phyllis Blanchard

Mrs. Blanchard, I am the lead mentor for the program and I really thank you for the kind words about the program!

- Justin Garritt

Response to "Surfing the Waves of Life" (4/29):

I was in the ocean with Roy in those days in Long Beach and I can say that he truly had, and has retained an incredible spirit of adventure and willingness to go further.

More importantly, I remember how after a day of surfing, when most of us would just get together to review the days surfing triumphs, Roy would leave to go write or paint or play guitar.

His desire to have both a creative and challenging life was evident then and continues to be his rudder as he sails onward in his wonderful journey. He inspires me to this day.

-Jonathan Stark

Response to "Ellis Hall ain't so bad" (4/15):

I lived in Ellis from 1969-1972. During my 4th year I lived in the Wright House. I began on 2nd North for my first term; then moved to 2nd South. 2nd South was an education and the wonderful friends I met there are very good friends to this very day. Ellis was all female then. We had a carpeted hall even despite an unfortunate incident with a drinking fountain :-)

Ellis could be rowdy; freshmen lived with upper classmen. Ellis met my needs perfectly: convenience, fun, security, fun, shelter, fun, comraderie, etc. As I am writing I can picture my room (2nd South; second door on the right, unable to recall room number) and the many good times there. Since I lived out of state I was always at the dorm; I stdied in Coolidge Library on weeknights and I went out on weekends. I wish life were this easy today.

-- M. Rita Costello

Castleton Spartan
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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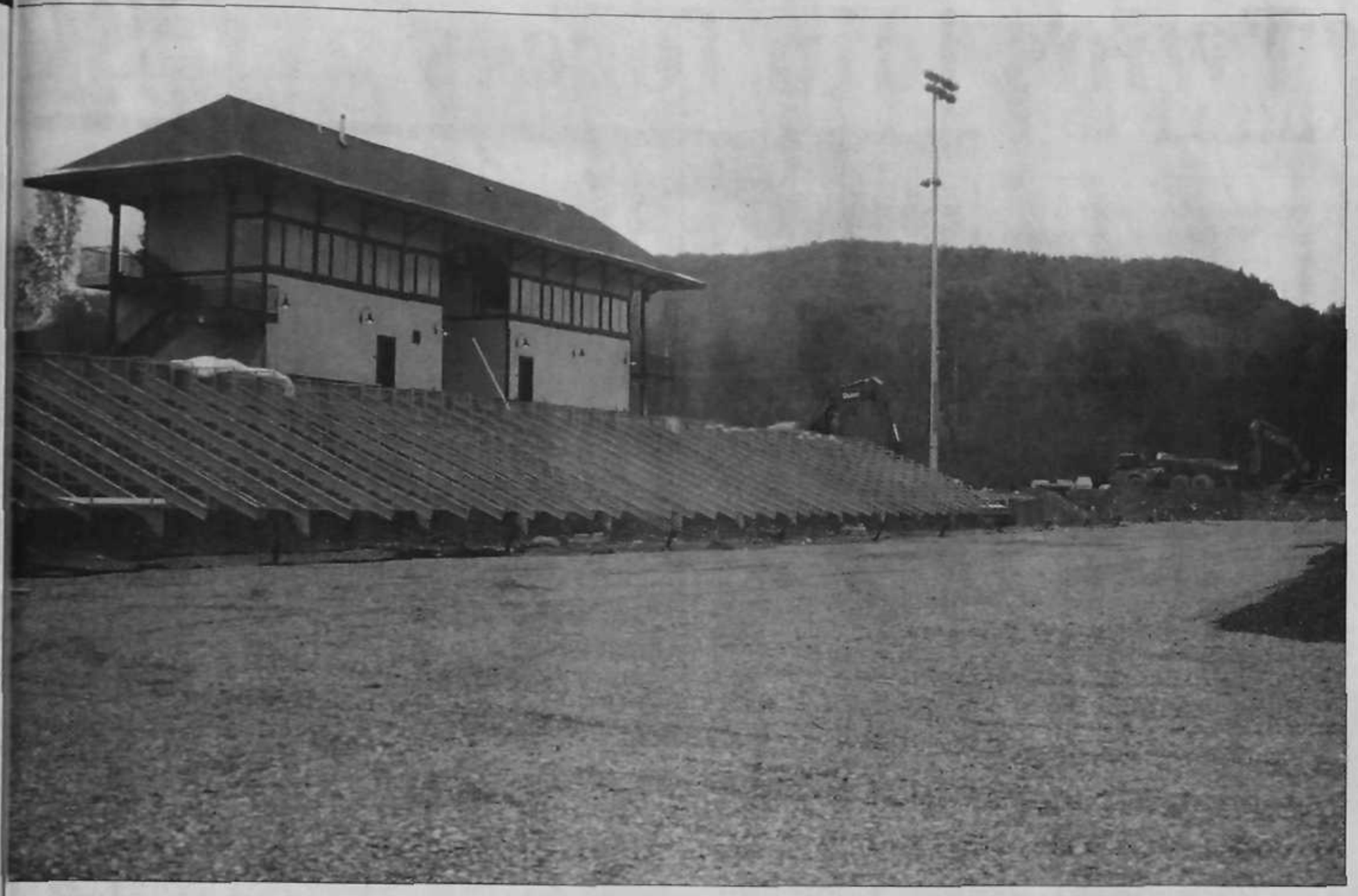

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Castleton Spartan Stadium's field will be covered with synthetic turf in time for fall sports.

Turf may change the games

By Molly Fraher
Castleton Spartan

Mounds of dirt and an 8-foot-tall fence still surround it. The sun beams down off its metal bleachers and blinds any passerby in the area. It may not look like much now, but in the fall, Castleton's Spartan Stadium will be ready to turn heads.

Aside from the permanent seating, press booth, restrooms and concession stand the stadium has to offer faithful fans, the state-of-the-art artificial turf will bring about some changes for CSC's fall athletes.

Whether it is women's soccer, men's soccer or field hockey, all players on all rosters will have to make some adjustments.

"I'm excited to play on the turf, but I'll also be missing the grass fields because it's what I learned to play on," said freshman field hockey player Amanda Kuchinski. "It's what I grew up on."

Both freshman field hockey player Angelica Mazzola and sophomore men's soccer player Christopher Mulholland say they expect that the turf will make their style of play go quicker.

"When we play on turf it is a different game than grass," said Mulholland. "We are much faster."

Mazzola echoed Mulholland's thoughts.

"I definitely think that the turf will have an impact on field hockey, it will make passing and the all around movement of the ball faster," Mazzola said.

But is faster always better?

Junior women's soccer player Ashley Hertford is torn on whether or not the switch to turf is a good idea.

"The soccer ball moves a lot quicker on turf and we are not used to that," Hertford said.

She also points out that on grass, players of both sports have more control over the ball and things can get a little shaky when the game switches over to a flat, fast surface.

"It's hard to be as fast as the ball," said Hertford. "I prefer grass."

But head field hockey and women's lacrosse coach Tammy Landon is enthusiastic about the new turf.

"Often our grass fields are not able to be used because of standing water, snow or mud," said Landon. "With the new turf we will be able to practice and have games because the turf conditions will always be consistent."

Of course the question that still remains is whether or not the teams' records will differ from last year's and whether or not this turf will have anything to do with it.

"We're no strangers to turf fields," Mulholland said, eschewing any correlation between future records and the new surface.

Freshman Jacob Ferry shares Mulholland's confidence.

"The transition should not be hard because we play quite a few away games on turf already and not all the games are going to be on turf," said Ferry. "So some games and practices will still be on grass."

All teams view the new stadium as a positive rather than a negative.

"The turf will also allow us to potentially host high school championships," said Landon. "It will help us recruit quality student athletes in that respect."

Both Landon and head men's soccer coach John Werner are looking to strengthen their programs in hopes of bringing home more NAC championship titles in the future.

"Because we have tended to be a smaller, quick and skillful team, I think our players will adapt very quickly," said Werner, whose players have already started thinking about the impact the turf will have on them.

"The turf will help our program because it allows for our individual skills along with team skills to develop," sophomore men's soccer player Colin Alfred said.

There is however, more than one catch.

"Four fall varsity teams using it as our home site will be a bit tricky to schedule," Landon said.

But according to CSC's Athletic Director Deanna Tyson in past press releases, all four teams, including the brand new football program, should be able to make it work smoothly.

Another area of concern is artificial turf related injuries that CSC's athletes might face once they step on the field.

Mazzola claims that the turf gets hotter than grass, especially in direct sunlight. And she and Hertford agree that falling on the turf results in more severe injuries than if one had fallen on natural grass.

According to an article on the suite101.com Web site, athletes who play on a turf surface are more prone to suffer from the following injuries; turf toe, muscle trauma and turf burn. The article goes on to state that both turf toe and muscle trauma are connected to the surface resistance of the turf, and that wearing proper footwear can lower the individual's risks.

Despite the scheduling conflicts that might arise and risks of new types of injuries, the overall consensus is that student athletes are looking forward for the chance to play on the turf and improve their games.

"I'm excited," said Mazzola, "I see (turf) being an important aspect in raising the level of sports here at Castleton."

Are you ready for the summer?

Robert Doran
Castleton Spartan

Summer months mean many different things to different people. It used to be about carefree vacation, but that was in grammar school and maybe early high school. For most college students, the true sense of the word vacation is no longer part of summer.

It's all about work, work, and more work, students say.

"I have to work pretty much all summer to be able to afford living in my apartment. It sucks some times, but it has to be done," said Jared Haskins, a Castleton junior.

Drew Arnesen, also a junior at Castleton, plans on staying in the area for the summer instead of making the journey back to his Colorado home.

"It's a long damn drive all the way to Colorado so I may stay here this summer and try to work or something," Arnesen says while shaking his head at the thought of the 20-hour drive.

But not all students are planning on all work and no play. Sophomore Beth Fleck will work a lot, but she's also planning to have some fun too.

"I work four or five days a week now at Dellveneri's Bakery in Rutland so I can take some time off this summer," Fleck said. "I plan on going to down to Boston a couple times to visit my boyfriend and also Virginia. I have family there."

Countless students said they'll be working doing internships this summer with the hope of scoring a possible job after graduation.

"I am also trying to get an internship with Edgewood Studios this summer. I really want to do something in film and this is the perfect opportunity to get my foot in the door," Fleck says.

And Haskins said even though he'll be working full-time, there will be some time for fun too.

"Summer vacation isn't what it used to be, but I still enjoy it as much as possible," he said walking to class last week.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Anthony Bessette tuning up his lacrosse skills for this summer.

Fresh Perspectives

Maria Arnot

This is the last "fresh perspectives" of the year and it seems almost surreal.

This year has gone by quicker than I could have ever imagined. In fact, it feels like every time I have written this column I have noted how fast time has gone by: first semester, winter break, etc.

I have not written a "fresh perspectives" in quite some time though, and since winter vacation, the weeks and weekends have all blended together in a mess of essays, last-minute Soundings events and a need by students to soak up the final weekends with their friends, enjoying the very few that remain of the year.

And quite frankly, I am sort of overwhelmed by it all. My first year of college is over! Although I still have three years and change of higher education remaining, the speed of which this first year occurred, has offered me the prospect that I will be in the "real world" sooner than I was anticipating.

As exciting as this should seem, I cannot conceal my overall disappointment.

My first year at Castleton overall was not exactly what I was expecting. Although some readers mentioned that some of my past articles included a hint of complaint, I really did enjoy my freshman year here: bad food, construction, Ellis and all.

By the way, speaking of housing, I would just like to make a side-note and say that I will be living in a newly renovated Babcock next year (as rumor has it), and not out of desire -- I am just a really, really good friend. But the rooming process was awful and I felt like I was stuck in a nightmare the entire three hours I was there.

But seriously.

The past few weeks we have had wonderful weather and it has really provided me with a glimpse of what helps makes Castleton so satisfactory. The weather has certainly exposed the intimacy that a small community like Castleton entails.

The weather has allowed students and different groups and classes to venture into the sports fields and various lawns of the school, to engage in a variety of outdoor activities. It was wonderful to watch and be a part of. It is too bad that finals, papers and soon to be summer jobs have hindered this.

But it's now summer and you will either be here next year or you will not. When students return in the fall, our campus will be completely transformed. We will have a brand new campus center, sports stadium, and the reconstruction of Leavenworth will be well under way. A new journalism room will arrive shortly thereafter.

To all of you who are transferring or graduating, I wish you good luck and good fortune, and also that hope you have taken something valuable away from Castleton.

And, to those of you who will be returning next year, have a good summer and see you next year. Don't miss my column too much.

Terry Badman

11 Things I'll Miss About Castleton

1. Fireside Subs: Complain all you want, but when I lived on campus, there were few ways better to sober up at night than with a turkey/bacon/Cheddar/pickle sub from Fireside. Deeelish.

2. Soundings: I went to 10 of these in my first semester. I had a lot of fun at Soundings, as they opened up my freshman brain to more exotic elements of culture. Good stuff. Quit bitching about it. Gawd!

3. Beer Pong: Playing pong at home isn't as much fun as in the dorms, when you are generally forced to remove a door from someone's closet to make a table. I wasn't very good at it, sure, but I learned that ping-pong balls explode under the right circumstances.

4. The Birdseye: I loved them a lot more until they started adding onions to their home fries. But still, there's something awesomely retro about sitting in a Birdseye booth and chowing down a plate of fries and gravy.

5. Adams Hall: My home for the first two years of my college experience still holds a soft spot in the cockles of my heart. There's just something satisfying about the way the word "douchebag" echoes down the corridors.

6. Huden: I loathed the place in the years I spent on campus, but now it makes me long for a time when I didn't have to worry about how much food costs. Tuna fish sandwiches and Fritos every day, man.

7. Cheap Booze: I got snooty about beer and liquor once I moved off campus and became old enough to buy it. You'll never see a can of Milwaukee's Best or a bottle of Five O'Clock whiskey in my dwelling these days, but at one point in my life, there was nothing better.

8. Night Walks: I used to walk everywhere at night. Castleton's got a nice, mellow, campus, perfect for strolling around with a bottle of Joe's Half and Half from the Village Store. It's soothing.

9. Beer Runs: Underage college kids running around dodging Public Safety with a backpack full of Bud bottles and cans clanging away with each step = priceless. Talk about a sense of victory.

10. Getting Pinched: Face it, getting caught for whatever happens to get you in trouble with the authorities is kind of exhilarating. As a college kid you can get away with a slap on the wrist for most issues. Plus it makes for a great story later on. Once you're out of school, the The Man's gloves REALLY come off. So get it out of your systems now.

11. The Education: In all seriousness, I owe a lot to my educational experience here at Castleton. I got to do things that I never would have been able to should I have gone somewhere else.

I could have just been another faceless number in the crowd. But I got to instead be a sort of somebody, running this little paper for a year and all. It's been a good time.

My only regret is that I didn't get a little more involved with things when I had the chance.

But it's been fun. I encourage everyone still waiting to graduate to make the most of the time they have left here.

It really is a special kinda place.

Cheers!

NEWS

Twins join forces at CSC

By Melissa Pope
Castleton Spartan

Castleton students might do a double take these days when seeing a pair of students walking across campus. To the untrained eye, they look completely identical, but a closer look reveals subtle differences.

Meet Bianka and Brittanie Nolan, identical twin sisters from Greenwich, N.Y. who came to Castleton State College this past fall.

"I was here first because of field hockey, but then when they saw Bianka, the team was like 'holy cow we can't tell the difference,'" said Brittanie.

Both girls played field hockey in high school, but Bianka tore her ACL her senior year and was not able to participate her first year here at Castleton.

When the Nolan sisters sat down to pick out colleges, they didn't even consider going to the same school, especially Brittanie.

"I was planning on going to school separately," Brittanie said. "I was sick of spending all my time with her, and in high school she always would copy my homework and I didn't want her to do that anymore because she always got good grades because of me. I kinda wanted some freedom to do my own thing, and meet new people. But as you can see that didn't happen."

For Bianka, the decision to come to Castleton was easy.

"Since my sister and everyone applied, I thought hey, I didn't really want to go away to school by myself my first year so I thought I'd apply. Also I wanted to go here because of field hockey too (before the ACL injury) and I liked how it was small and close to home because I wasn't ready for a big school because I went to a small high school," said Bianka.

As their first year went on, the dynamic in their relationship started to change.

"I don't care anymore that we go to the same school. She is the only one I pretty much hang out with. I guess it worked out for the better," said Brittanie.

Brittanie spends almost all her time in her sister's dorm room, hardly ever sleeping in her own room. And nine times out of 10, when someone is looking for one twin, they find the other because they are always together. On a typical night, Brittanie positions herself on Bianka's roommate's bed and dances the night away to American Idol and Bianka lip synchs.

"I'd probably be pretty lonely if she wasn't here. She is always in here. Since I don't do anything, go parties or anything, I would probably be pretty bored, and want to go hom more than I do now," said Bianka.

For another set of Castleton twi the mindset is a lot different.

Trista and Tamara Gregory, soo to be graduates of Castleton, never

Continued on page 7 . . .

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MELISSA P

Brittanie Nolan (left), and Bianka Nolan (right) pose in front of their birthday cakes.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Chris Boettcher sits in his Leavenworth office.

New face in Eng. Dept.

By Eric Kapitan
Castleton Spartan

In Chris Boettcher's Touchstone's of Western Literature course, the discussion in class may have started out slow, but soon it began to flow.

Rather then simply lecture, Boettcher talked with the students in the class as if they were just having a casual conversation. He even incorporated students' own ideas and thoughts into his lecture.

Boettcher is a new professor in the Castleton English department, teaching composition and writing courses.

"I enjoy how he starts with a point and has us discuss from there and has in mind where he'd like the discussion to be led. He drops hints here and there if we don't quite get there, but he certainly lets us voice our own view points," said Jacob Mclaughlin, a Castleton student.

His fellow English professors in the department are equally happy Boettcher chose Castleton.

"I am very pleased to have professor Boettcher as a new colleague. I think he brings a wealth of expertise and energy to the English department that will benefit his students and colleagues alike," said colleague Andrew Alexander.

English department chairman Dennis Shramek agrees.

"Generally at the college, we look for candidates who are interested in the field. We look for candidates who demonstrate success in teaching and who are enthusiastic in doing college community service. In each of those three categories, Chris did very well," Shramek said.

Boettcher did his graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh. He came to Castleton from a small liberal arts college in Arkansas.

"I'm really interested in helping my students develop their own ideas about things and to think critically about the world," Boettcher said.

He said he is a strong believer in service learning, an educational method in which students do work in the community, which is then integrated into the classroom.

Boettcher first became interested in service learning when he did volunteer work restoring a dude ranch in Montana. He observed how the other volunteers were able to learn from what they are doing and somehow relate it to themselves.

"How people were able to not just solve a problem, but look at themselves differently to solve this problem. This was something that was really striking to me," he said.

Outside of teaching, Boettcher likes being outdoors and enjoys hiking. He is also currently working on remodeling his house.

When it comes to the comparison of Castleton and the liberal arts school in Arkansas, Boettcher said he has found both schools to be very similar.

"Like Castleton, its emphasis is on how it helps its students to develop as citizens and people, as well as students," he said. "That's an important part of the work that everyone does."

Inside Castleton's brand new Campus Center

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Retiring Dean of Students Greg Stone leads a group of students through the soon to be completed

Time to graduate

By Jessica Lawrenson
Castleton Spartan

You may have recently seen seniors who are smiling bigger than ever, possibly having a real good time in the dorms now that their time to move on has come.

Justin Shartz screamed, "Woo hoo!" when talking about his departure into the real world. He seemed extremely excited to graduate, but was also indifferent on leaving Castleton.

"It is scary but in a cool way," Shartz said. "I am going to miss the business department, especially Deb Danfourth."

He is not the only one who is scared about what is going to happen on the other side of the graduation march.

"Oh my god where did the four years go? This is scary because you have no idea what you are getting into," Dale Gray said.

Gray said that she is really nervous because of the troubled economy is and especially now that she will have student loans entering repayment soon.

And while she may be nervous, she is glad that she got the experience here at Castleton.

"The best thing I took away from Castleton was the social experience. Everyone is a potential friend," said Gray after explaining that her graduating [high school?] class had only 30 people in it.

Jennifer Kleptz also took a big part in the social aspect of college.

"I am ready to be done with the school work part, but I am really going to miss my friends," said Kleptz. She will be missing her friends so much that she has decided to move to Fair Haven next yea

"Finding out that I was going to graduate for sure was really exciting, but it als freaked me out a little bit," said Kleptz.

It seems that many seniors have the same idea when it comes to how they feel abou leaving the place that they ju spent four years of their lives Hopefully the real world isn' as scary as they anticipate an all goes well for them.

Also good luck to all of those who are graduating.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Michael Esposito drives to the basket during a game of intramural basketball this semester.

In the spirit of competition and dodgeball

Mike DelDotto
Castleton Spartan

The basketball player receives a break-away pass and finishes his shot with a reverse lay up. The impressive play leads to "oooooos" from fellow players and the few onlookers. There is no crowd chanting, no scorer's table, and definitely no TV cameras.

Player Nick Bennett flashes the same smile he had during some of his biggest high school games.

Bennett is a sophomore at Castleton and an intramural sports athlete who also plays intramural dodgeball and wiffleball.

"I played basketball in high school," said Bennett referring to his decision to play intramurals at CSC. "And dodgeball is dodgeball, it's not exactly a game that is offered in high school sports."

In addition to being an avid intramural sports athlete, Bennett also referees for the program.

According to Castleton's Web site, the college offers 10 intramural sports open to both men and women and the program seems to keep expanding. Boot Hockey was added this fall and wiffleball expanded from six teams in spring 2008 to 12 this spring.

Men's hockey Coach Alex Todd is now in his second year heading the intramural program at Castleton.

"I like to think it has changed for the good," Todd said. "It's been getting more and more organized."

Todd is no stranger to running intramural sports.

"I was in charge of intramural sports my senior year [at Union]. I played softball as well," Todd said.

Students who play intramurals seem to enjoy the laid-back atmosphere and friendly encounters.

"There're no practices, no mandatory conditioning, and you get to play with your friends," Bennett said. "I played intramurals over at Keene State." Keene's are way more intense. They hold their intramurals on the weekend. Castleton just has them on the weeknights. And you even have to pay money for some sports at Keene."

Bennett was asked whether or not he preferred Castleton's more laid back program.

Senior Josh Manley left his glory days behind to join the ranks of a Castleton intramural athlete as well. Manley also played basketball in high school, but left after two years and played for his Church Youth Organization with a few friends.

"I don't really have the time to try out for a varsity sport," said Manley in the midst of watching snowboarding videos and sipping a Utica Club, his hometown brew. "I don't have the time to dedicate my life to it."

When Bennett, Manley, and Castleton junior Eric Hall were asked if they believed intramural sports were important, all three responded instantly.

"Oh for sure!" exclaimed Hall. "I think it adds a little competitive edge between certain groups of people and friendly rivalries."

Manley agreed saying it helps him remain active and he can play with his closest friends.

Manley and Hall, unlike Bennett, captured the rare intramural championship this past fall, winning in flag football.

"It was the highlight of my life man! I don't think I'm gonna top it!" joked Manley. "Really, it was cool. It felt good."

Hall was a teammate of Manley's on that historic team.

"It was pretty exciting," said Hall smiling. "When it came down to that last defensive play, my team made the goal line stand."

Bennett says he's still searching for an intramural championship.

"Well, uh, ever since the first day I set foot on campus I've been seeking an intramural championship t-shirt. I've come up close several times in the playoffs and that shirt has eluded me. And maybe one day, because I still have two more years, that shirt will be in my grasp," Bennett said, laughing.

BOOK REVIEW - *By Wendy Young*

"I'll prove to you I'm the best fiddler these parts have ever seen, and too good for the likes of you! I'll go fiddle for the Skull Hill Ghost!"

Pressed beyond endurance by the censure and bullying of the people in town, 14-year-old Rune makes that rash promise. And it is a rash promise—no one has been left alive by that ghost. Even the priest who went to exorcize the ghost ended up dead. But Rune is determined not to go back on her word.

Somehow Rune makes it through the night without being killed. She realizes that no one will believe her if she went back. The ghost had given her a reward, enough for her to leave the small town of Westhaven and head for the Midsummer Faire. For at the Midsummer Faire is where the auditions for Guild Bard were.

First though, Rune has to find a teacher. For while Rune knows how to play music, she does not know how to read or write it. And one of the requirements for the audition is that the participants write one song, be able to play more than one instrument. Rune's only instrument is her fiddle, and even the ghost's reward isn't quite enough to buy another instrument.

Once Rune has learned all she must, there is one more hurdle to jump: the Guild Bards only except men into their ranks! What will Rune do now?

Mercedes Lackey's "The Lark and the Wren "is a well-written story. It shows that nothing is impossible if you refuse to give up.

13th ANNUAL CASTLETON CONCERT'S ON THE GREEN SET TO KICK OFF THE SUMMER

2009 CONCERT ON THE GREEN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES LINE-UP

Tues.. June 2nd - Michele Fay Band - *(FC)
Tues. June 9th - Starline Rhythm Boys - *(FAC)
Tues. June 16th - Enerjazz - *(T)
Tues. June 23rd - Amber DeLaurentis Band - *(T)
Tues. June 30th - Lewis Franco & the Missing Cats- *(T)
Sat. July 4th - Gypsy Reel (at Crystal Beach) - *(July 5th)
Tues. July 7th - Bore'al Tordu - *(FAC)
Tues. July 14th - Stone Cold Roosters- *(FAC)
Tues. July 21st - Satin & Steel - *(T)
Tues. July 28th - Will Patton Ensemble - *(FC)
Tues. Aug. 4th - Maiden Vermont and Rutland Curbstone Chorus (at Old Medical Chapel green) - *(FAC)
Tues. Aug. 11th - Sonny & Perley - *(FAC)
Tues. Aug. 18th - Reggie's Red Hot Feetwarmers - *(FAC)

*Rain sites: FC - Federated Church; FAC - CSC Casella Fine Arts Center; T- Tent
[Rain sites subject to change]

Free Live Music All Summer Long!

SEX! Now that we've got your attention, visit Castletonspartan.com for more stories and online exclusives. It's EXCITING.

Break it Down

Melissa Pope

I know that I am supposed to ramble on about some entertainment aspect, but I think this week I would rather discuss this semester and how our campus has obtained its own Hollywood status this year.

We've had drama, suspense, sadness, and who knows what else has happened behind closed doors.

Not to sound cliché', but we really do have some celebrities among us. After attending the Student Government Association awards ceremony this past Thursday, there is no doubt in my mind that so many of my peers' names are going to be in the bright lights. Professors and administration normally find those excellent students and praise them, but as a peer, normally it goes in one ear and out the other.

This time around was different.

There were a lot of names that I have never heard before that were given awards, but some of the people who were recognized were students who I never would put in the academic excellence category. That sounds a lot harsher than it is meant to, but let me explain.

I was thoroughly amazed by the students who have been around me this entire time and manage to juggle a social life, an academic life, some sports lives, and volunteer work, all while maintaining high GPAs.

You still might be sitting there reading this and thinking that these people are a cut above the rest, but I think if given the right tools, everyone on this campus can achieve celebrity status here at Castleton and beyond.

I am going to now hop on the bandwagon of telling everyone how important it is to get involved in some way on campus. Whether it is simply attending events that happen, starting a club, or joining a group, it really does make your Castleton experience worth the while.

Trust me, when I came to Castleton, there was no part of me that wanted to get involved. As the years went on, friends started to graduate, and I started to wonder what was going to happen when I left Castleton. I wondered if I was going to be one of those people who no one remembered or recognized and was just a name on a paper.

I took matters into my own hands.

I joined Student Orientation Staff, became a community advisor, and became actively involved in the Spartan and the Women's Studies Program.

I decided that I wanted to leave my mark here at Castleton and make people remember my name. Go on, call me crazy. But I'm making my dreams come true.

Make your summer count, and for those of you graduating, I'll be waiting to write articles about all the amazing things you will all be doing.

As always,
Keep it classy Castleton,
Xoxo
Melissa

FRONT & BACK

Student: they blamed me

group.

"They have it in their minds that they did something wrong, like they didn't handle the situation right."

One in Four, a nationally recognized non-profit program, exists to raise awareness against sexual and domestic violence in the community. The group, made up specifically of males, aims to change the way men may view violence against women.

Burge and the Castleton chapter of One in Four believe it is the negative stereotypes often associated with reporting sexual assaults that lead victims to maintain their secrecy. They don't want to become subject of ridicule or blame.

"A lot of times a victim of sexual assault is dealing with a lot of shame and guilt," said Miche Chamberlain, director of the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter.

Chamberlain said that many victims of rape would rather maintain their silence, trying to continue life the best they can instead of rehashing the past and getting the authorities involved.

"They don't want to move foreword," Chamberlain said. "They just want it to be over with."

Castleton Director of Public Safety Bob Godlewski said that while Castleton has had fewer reports of alleged sexual assaults than many other colleges, only in this school year, he admits that the problem is a universal occurrence.

Even at small, seemingly safe schools like Castleton, there are incidents that go unreported, he said.

Godlewski said Castleton investigates every lead they can whenever a report or tip involving a campus sexual assault is unearthed. But he said rumors aren't always true, and more is needed to prosecute than simple hearsay.

If the victim of an assault or a reliable witness doesn't step forward, little can be done in the way of prosecuting those responsible, he said.

"In the end, you have to have the alleged victim want to proceed," Godlewski said. "It becomes a very frustrating endeavor that's not taken lightly by anyone on this campus."

Changing the MENtality

Robert Burge finds the concept of campus assailants getting off without punishment equally infuriating.

"It makes me very angry," Burge said, adding that he knows of students on campus who have been accused by others of committing sexual assaults, but the victims never reported it. "I see him all the time. That guy is still around campus, still at parties, still dancing on ladies at The Dog – it's disgusting."

Burge believes women often are forced by their assailants into silence, threatened with violence should they decide to come forward.

He worries that the campus' social cliques are protecting those who commit acts of sexual assault, adding that their social status on campus may lead them to believe they're untouchable in the ways of prosecution.

Others think that the severity of the issue just doesn't resonate with everyone.

"I feel like there's a lot of people – particularly men – who don't understand the gravity of rape," Castleton Community Advisor Laura Olson said.

Olson recalls watching a video in a Castleton Race and Gender class that dealt with the traumatic experiences of rape first hand.

As the film ended, Olson remembers watching a male classmate lean over to his female friend and tell her that the woman in the video deserved to be raped because of the way she was dressed.

"I couldn't believe after watching all the horrors of that video that someone would be that sick," Olson said. "I feel women feel pressured to agree with the consensus. It sucks."

Fellow Castleton CA Greg LaMoy also couldn't understand why the subject of rape was treated as such a joke among some people.

"More guys need to take a stand against the jokes and stigmas attached to rape," LaMoy said. "It's not cool. It's not funny. It's cruel and it needs to be stopped."

Culture requires a change of attitude before real progress can be made in preventing sexual assaults. The best way, Olson and LaMoy said, is by making the issue hit home with people, as some feel it doesn't affect them directly.

"It's a pretty big deal for me," LaMoy said. "I know several girls who have been sexually assaulted but haven't reported it. It's surprising – a lot of my friends had their own personal stories."

Olson agreed.

"Rape is just as much a man's concern as a woman's," Olson said. "How would you like it if your girlfriend was raped?"

Keep on keeping on

A few years have passed since that night. Vanessa is now a senior at Castleton State College and is anxiously awaiting her graduation ceremony on Saturday. She says she rarely spoke of the incident until fairly recently, when she felt it was time to come to terms with what happened.

"I felt incredibly violated and humiliated," said Vanessa, recalling the aftermath of the night in detail. "I didn't want to tell anyone."

Part of the reason for her secrecy, she said, stemmed directly from the reactions of some of her close friends, who she told initially after the incident in hopes of finding compassion.

While most friends were supportive, wanting to "kick the crap out him," Vanessa noted that a few of her male friends thought she was to blame.

"I've had multiple people tell me it was my fault, that I shouldn't have put myself in that situation," she said. "I had one guy who I thought was my friend . . . I really needed someone to talk to, so I told him, and he told me that I wanted it to happen and that it was my fault."

That's what kept Vanessa from contacting police, feeling they wouldn't take her seriously because she was drunk during the assault.

Vanessa also said she didn't want to overburden her parents at the time, so she didn't tell them what happened.

"I felt they had enough stress already and I didn't want to add to it," she said. "But I also didn't know if they'd look at me differently."

But as years went on, Vanessa finally mustered the courage to open up about her past.

"Keeping that kind of secret begins eating away at you after a while," she said, adding that she told her parents what had happened on her birthday this year.

Since telling her parents, Vanessa has also sought help from a counselor and has begun the process of recovering mentally from the ordeal. She admits, though, that the incident left lasting effects.

"It has definitely screwed me up in some ways. It's harder for me to trust people," she said. "I was in Huden last semester and all of a sudden just got panicked. If someone had touched me on the shoulder I would have just ran out."

Even still, Vanessa has high hopes for the future, and has felt her stress load decrease significantly since she came out with her story. She advises women in her situation to do the one thing that they've been dreading since their own assaults – talk about it with others.

She said that by dealing with the memories head-on and with the help of others, she was able to begin putting the pieces of her life back together. Her experiences, she said, also gave her a great deal of power.

She hopes that by telling her story other women can avoid a similar travesty from happening to them, or how they can begin to cope with their past.

"After I told my family, it was like a huge weight off my shoulders," she said. "I think I suddenly realized, yeah, it was a shitty situation, but I can't let it control my life. It's been constantly on my brain since it happened and I'm tired of it being like that."

"I want to deal with it and move on so I can start living again," she said.

Men looking to chang attitudes on rape

Continued from page 1

tive who felt that it was important to bring One in Four to Castleton. In her research, she found that male-to-male peer advocacy groups or education groups are two of the most effective ways in changing male attitudes that contribute towards sexual violence.

Douglas Phillips, known around campus simply as D-Phresh, is an active member of the group. He joined the group unsure about what to expect, and it turned out that some of his good friends were alongside him in the group's efforts to raise awareness.

"It's a diverse group of us. We all have different backgrounds. It has built bonds among us," Phillips said. "I just want to help other people - it's not about me. It's to get to know people better and to help them, to educate men about things they can do if they're put in a situation to help prevent sexual assault."

Next fall, One in Four will merge into a larger program, Peer Advocates for C.H.A.N.G.E., a mixed-gender peer support group. Jacklyn Van Manen, student coordinator for the C.H.AN.G.E. initiative discusses the plans for the program, which include a 24-hour sexual assault crisis hotline, male-to-male presentations and a mixed male-female panel for presentations. In addition peer advocates will also required to attend 40 h of training to prepare for t positions.

The group has alre given several presentatio fellow students since its mation.

"It's really just a ma of people wanting to h the presentations - whe it be in a class, or in a r dence hall, a sports team a club," Van Manen said think once the word can out more then it'll defini have a huge impact on campus."

Burge is especially p sionate about the iss raised with One in Four will continue his involvem as the program transitio He speaks out about rais awareness in an enthusias hopeful manner, and his de cation is solid. He's made point to show others the w in which they can help cause, too.

"Men can help by gett involved. There are dif ent things in the preser tion - like talking about h the word 'bitch' is used words like that, that degr women," Burge said. "Do use those, spread the w respect. Respect women l you'd respect your frien Especially at a party; if sh too drunk, then don't e think about it. So just spre that word."

Town adds train sto

Continued from page 1

is located on Main Street in Castleton, is co-owned by MaryAnn and Val Jakubowski, who have been pushing hard for their depot to once again become a permanent passenger-rail service stop.

"It's an opportunity to increase the ridership on the passenger line by stopping in Castleton," said MaryAnn Jakubowski. "Although it is not definite yet, we are very, very close"

The Depot was expected to become a permanent stop by June 1, but there are still a few kinks that are being worked out, Jakubowski said.

The Castleton Depot provided passenger rail service between 1945 and 1946, and now the only way people in Castleton can travel by train is through Fair Haven or Rutland, which have only been in service since 1996.

"The Fair Haven train station is very worn down," said community member Allison Reuling, who attended the event. "It's all boarded up and there is no telephone service."

Speakers, including Transportation Representative Dill and Castleton President Dave Wolk, spoke fondly of the benefits of the potential train stop for traveling college s dents, families, and tour alike.

"I fully expect that it v become a permanent st It's the perfect building a that helps the appeal for travel," Wolk said.

Wolk also commented the ever-increasing numb of students visiting Castlet and noted that a train trav ing throughout the New En land states will be extreme convenient for these stude and their families.

Two other ardent suppo ers include Kelly Draper a Lynn Kratochvil, who o the Green Mountain Coun Depot store which is attach to the train depot. The sm shop offers coffee, bak goods, and deli meats, a will likely be affected by t train stop.

Draper and Kratochvil cently invested in a massi outdoor train grill and Kra chvil could be found flippi burgers diligently Saturda as he put the grill to use the first time.

"I can't wait for this to b come a train stop. This is place where people want be and not where they ha to be. It's a nice atmosphe and that makes all the diffe ence," said Kratochvil.

Graduation on Saturday

Continued from page 1 . .

options beyond your comfort level."

Others agreed.

"I definitely feel like I've been prepared for a great career in education," said Elizabeth Moyer.

"I really enjoyed my time at Castleton, and I hope to find the perfect job soon!"

In the celebration and excitement of the weekend, however, President Wolk reminds all students to stay safe.

"My wife Diane and I will once again be driving a Safe Ride van throughout Friday evening and well into Saturday morning so that all students can be safely driven home," said Wolk.

"This tradition of having fun while staying safe is one that we want to uphold! All the best to a very impressive class!"

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

A child enjoys a walk along the Castleton tracks.

Inside Sports

Castleton softball loses in NAC, looks forward to next season

The Spartan softball team was knocked out of the North Atlantic Conference tournament faster than they had hoped as they lost 8-0 to Husson College and 8-1 to Thomas College on May 1.

After defeating Lyndon State College 5-1 in the first round of play, the fourth-seeded Spartans advanced to face top-seeded Husson College.

Husson entered the game with a 23-14 record on the season, but more importantly a 14-0 record in NAC play.

The Spartans, 7-7 in NAC play, sent junior Hilary Bemis to the mound, looking for a strong performance similar to the one she had against Lyndon, where she allowed just four hits in seven innings. Husson's hitters, though, proved to be too tough for Bemis as the Eagles tagged her for five hits and all eight runs in just four innings

The Eagles did all the damage they would have to do in the bottom of the second inning when Dottie Cameron hit a base-clearing double with two outs, scoring three runs. Husson added the icing on the cake in the bottom of the fourth when the team scored five runs. Three of those runs came from a three-run home run.

With the Spartan offense unable to get anything going, the game was ended shortly after the fifth inning because of the eight-run rule. The Spartans were moved into the loser's bracket, where third-seeded Thomas College awaited them in the first elimination game of the tournament.

In the game against Thomas things quickly got out of control again as the Spartan defense took the afternoon off. The Spartans made four errors during the game, allowing five unearned runs to score. Castleton's offense, something the team relied heavily on in the regular season, also seemed absent from the game. The Spartans' lone run on the day came in the bottom of the fourth when Bemis hit a double. Alicia Zraunig would later drive her in with a sacrifice fly.

Bemis took the loss again for the Spartans despite a solid pitching performance in which she gave up six hits and three earned runs in seven innings.

Sophomore first baseman Sarah Flore said that the Spartans didn't bring their best game to the tournament.

"I feel like we could have played a lot better," she said. We could have beaten any of those teams. It just wasn't our day."

Alicia Zraunig agreed with Flore.

"Our bats were what were lacking in both of the games we played. It was hard for us to score those runs. We left quite a few players on base," she said. "But I feel as if we definitely competed with the other three teams in the final four."

Despite the outcome of this se son's playoffs, the Spartan softb team is excited for next season, a cording to Flore. She said that t team has around 20 players interest in helping to bring Castleton softb a NAC championship.

"We will have a lot of returnir players with a lot of experience, so feel like we will have a better chan at winning the NAC," she said

Zraunig is as optimistic about ne year as Flore is.

"We are getting a lot of recrui coming in next season, plus everyor returning. Coach [John Werner] wi have a great season next year, ar there is a definite chance of a NA championship next year," she said.

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Ethan Garhartt (right) and Asher Chaffin (left) pose for the camera inside Ellis Hall.

The Dynamic Duo

By Wyatt Aloisio
Castleton Spartan

If one were to set foot in Ellis hall they would be greeted by many different characters and faces of the campus community. But of the students who live there currently, few are quite as interesting and unique as the freshman duo of Ethan Garhartt and Asher Chaffin.

Hailing from Bennington, the pair of best friends since seventh-grade has become two of the most well established figures that reside within the hall and are perhaps two of the most cherished people of the class of 2012.

Garhartt, a well-built individual with a reputation for his famous bear hugs, is by every measure of his being someone who brings instant happiness to those who meet him. Majoring in history, he plans to receive his teaching license and teach secondary education.

Quite often he can be found in his room and can be heard before you even get there, singing along to a never-ending set list on his computer of jazz, alternative, folk, and so on.

"Karaoke all the way! I love music and want more!" Garhartt remarks happily.

Though Ethan is a dedicated and quite talented video gamer who is rarely ever found away from a computer screen or X-box controller, his passion lies somewhere else entirely -- in his poetry.

"I was really bad at English in school. So my dad told me I should try writing poetry to improve my grammar. I ended up liking it so much that I decided to keep with it," he said.

Garhartt now has numerous writings ready to be compiled into his own book that he would like to have published.

And rarely far from Garhartt is his counterpart, Asher Chaffin.

Also an avid video gamer and huge anime fan, Chaffin frequents the volleyball court daily and seemingly never runs out of energy to spare when it comes to being around other people.

Having a pension for adding the word "ladies" to the ends of his sentences -- even if no women are present at the time -- only serves to add to his Ellis hall reputation of being a "man's man" who is liked by almost everyone.

His sporadic and easy-going nature seems almost contradictory of his future plans of attending law school and working for a firm, especially after viewing his most recent performance in the Intro to Dancing recital.

It was there that Chaffin dawned a spandex unitard and lipstick to perform to Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" with four other men.

In another excursion he dressed as Goku from the hit anime series "Dragonball" to attend the showing of the live-action film.

Freshman Linna MacLeod, who lives down the hall from the pair, reminisces about her first year spent with the duo.

"Ethan is like a giant teddy bear and Asher is the one of my favorite people to be around 'cuz he's so much fun," MacLeod said. "I don't think I would have had as good of a first year if they weren't around."

Indeed, great things are yet in store for the pair as they anxiously await their sophomore year at Castleton. Garhartt will be taking his post as a CA in Castleton hall next year and despite the move, the two friends plan on keeping their weekly Dungeons & Dragons games going and seem uninhibited by their change of scenery.

"Asher plans on following me around in his boxers when I do rounds in Castleton," Garharrt said. "Honestly, I expect nothing less."

Sprint into summer

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Students in the youth leadership program run head on in a game of dodgeball. (above) Members of the Spartan staff (below) were recent recipients of the Student Association's Club of the Year Award

ROBERT BURGE / CASTLETON SPARTAN

WYATT ALOISIO / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Sarah Backus poses in between serving students at the Almost Midnight Breakfast

A physical plant worker gets lawn ready for graduation.

Seeing double? Twins take on college together

Continued from page 4. . .

envisioned going to college without each other.

"I pretty much just decided that it would be too weird to not go to the same school she went to. We have gone to school together our whole lives, and that is what we are used to," said Tamara.

Trista echoed her sister's comments.

"It was pretty much a very close relationship and a security thing that made me want her to be here. I saw Tamara every day of my life and the thought of not seeing her every day really bothered me. Whenever she wasn't around, I literally felt like a part of me was somewhere else and it felt very uncomfortable. I would just feel kind of vulnerable and alone."

But just because these twins go to school together doesn't mean they can't have their freedom. They can take different classes and live in different dorms, if they choose to. But somehow, these sets of twins all landed on some sort of common ground without even trying to.

"Our first couple of years here were completely different. I wanted to be a teacher and Trista was into forensics. Eventually we explored some health related classes and found that we were even more interested in that. So we both changed our majors to health science and have taken a lot of the same classes together," said Tamara.

The Nolan sisters have taken several of the same classes, which undoubtedly keeps professors on their toes. And next year, they even plan to live together.

"No preference is given because they are twins. If they request to live together, then fine they live together. But we do not intentionally place them together or separate them. There is no category on the housing contract to say hey check here if your sibling goes here and you want to live with them," said Christie Wilkerson, area coordinator for Babcock Hall.

The Nolans said they just decided that it made that much more sense to live together. And it does help that they share just about everything.

"Usually Bianka is really stingy and won't let me wear anything," said Brittanie.

"It's just cause she takes things!" Bianka chimed in.

"It's cause she's stingy!" Brittanie shoots back.

But twins aren't the only siblings to roam the Castleton campus. Numerous sets of siblings chose to come to the same college, all for different reasons. But the overall consensus was that having a sibling at school with you is a definite plus.

"It's nice to have a sibling here to show me around and give advice about things like which teachers are good and what classes to take," said first year Angelica Mazzola, whose older sister Francesca also goes to Castleton.

"Castleton was a great fit for me and I knew it would be for Anjay as well," said big sister Francesca.

Senior Emma Harvey also pointed out positive points about her younger brother coming to CSC.

"It's nice to just be able to run into each other on campus. We get along really well and actually have a few of the same friends," she said.

Castleton State College is a tight knit community and is known as being its own family. Little did many know just how many same-family students are on campus. Most students choose to go away to college to escape their home lives, and start fresh, but for some students, a piece of home in the form or a sibling helps make college the best time of their lives.

"I think a lot more twins are a lot closer than we are. It's cause we weren't wicked close when we were younger. I don't love her like I love my mom, But we definitely don't argue as much now since going to school together," said Bianka.

"I love her just like a sister should," Brittanie said.

The bond has always been tight for the Gregory twins, and remains so at Castleton.

"We have never been apart for more than a day or two in our lives, and we are about to turn 22 years old. So our connection is pretty strong," Tamara added.

"It kind of made college a smoother, easier transition because I had someone to go through it with me," said Trista.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MELISSA POPE

The Nolan twins pose for a picture with a friend. Which one's which?

Football ready to rumble

By Robert Doran
Castleton Spartan

The hype is building. The players are ready. And camp can't come soon enough for the Spartans of the gridiron. Practicing all year really has these players chomping at the bit.

The last practice before camp ended with the players coming together with hands in the air shouting "family". It has been a long time coming, but all of the hard work is about to pay off for all of them. As they break from the huddle, you can see the excitement in every one of their faces. Camp begins Aug. 13 and the summer can't end soon enough for these players.

"This has been a great experience so far. Next year is going to be crazy! It will be a lot of fun. I can't wait," said Anthony Simms, a freshman tight end. "It's going to be a lot of fun to make some history."

History seems to be mentioned a lot as a motivating tool for these players and it is definitely getting through to them.

"The coaches really are hammering away at the history thing, and we realize the opportunity that we have on our hands here," said Ian Kibbe, a junior Spartan linebacker.

The opportunity Kibbe is talking about is the opportunity to win. This team is really a true team, and they realize that is what it takes to win games. The feeling of family is very apparent while watching the players joke and laugh with one another after practice and during their free time. That feeling will help this team accomplish its true goals.

"We want to win every game of course, but we are being realistic and we want a winning season. We feel a conference championship is within reach", says Zach Wiessner, a junior lineman. "Our coaches gel well and that has helped us a lot."

Coach and trainer Al Jean agrees with Wiessner.

"I feel we probably have the best coaches in the conference."

Kibbe thinks that the Spartans have everything they need to have a successful first season.

"With this combination of great coaching and dedication to winning, the inaugural season for Spartan football should be a great one, not even mentioning the fact that it's history!"

The season begins Sept. 5 at the brand new Spartan Stadium versus Ana Maria. The Spartans will look to remain unbeaten since 1787 and will look for a stadium full of support.

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Nicole Adams fights for possession against Western New England College in the ECAC championship.

A record setting year

By Mike DelDotto
Castelton Spartan

The Castleton State College women's lacrosse team saw its most successful season in program history come to an end this past Mother's Day. The Spartans' 16-8 loss came from a familiar foe, Western New England College.

Last season WNEC beat Castleton 22-4 in the Eastern College Athletic Conference tournament to eliminate the Spartans. Castleton hoped for revenge this year in the ECAC championship game, which the Spartans hosted.

The road to the ECAC championship was paved with an inaugural North Atlantic Conference Championship, another New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance heartbreak, and a stunning upset of Emerson College on the road during ECAC play.

"I'm just extremely proud," said Spartan coach Tammy Landon, now in her third season. "We continued to battle to the last day of the season. Playing today was fantastic for our program."

Castleton sophomore Marie VanDerKar had nothing but good things to say about her team as well.

"It was a hell of a season," said VanDerKar, hugging a tearful teammate. "We will never have a team like this again."

In Saturday's victory over Emerson, the Spartans shot 61 precent in their 22-15 victory. Nicole Adams found the back of the net six times, and she dished out three assists for a game-high nine points.

Adams' play in the Emerson game caused WNEC to defend her heavily on Sunday, giving room for numerous other Spartans to step up their play.

The ECAC championship was back and forth for the first five minutes of play, with a 2-2 tie on goals coming from VanDerKar and Stephanie Pearce. WNEC began to cut up the Spartans' zone defense, and WNEC went on to an eight-goal run, which included five goals from Michelle Thompson, to lead Castleton 10-2. Thompson finished her day with six goals to lead all scorers. Castleton freshman Stephanie Paproski added two quick goals in the final minute of the first half, and WNEC's Lindsey Fenton scored with four seconds to go, bringing the game to an 11-4 advantage for WNEC at halftime.

The Spartans battled back in the second half, narrowing the game to 15-7 at one point, before ultimately falling to WNEC yet again.

The two games in two days may have taken their toll on the Spartans.

"We were drained. We didn't get back until 1:00 [Sunday morning]. Everyone's legs were just shot," said VanDerKar. "WNEC came out ready to play."

Although WNEC finished as ECAC champions, Landon was proud of her team's play.

"It was exciting to host," Landon said with a smile. "[WNEC] is a very strong program and we are showing that we can compete with strong programs."

Spartans unravel in ninth

By John Shramek
Castleton Spartan

The Spartan baseball team dominated the North Atlantic Conference all season long.

Their only NAC loss of the season came against Husson College when they took two out of three from the Eagles in a weekend series at the end of March. But the Spartans' domination didn't stop with their NAC opponents. The team had almost every other team's number as they finished the regular season winning 16 of their last 19 games, ending with an overall record of 23-13.

They looked like a sure thing to win the NAC championship for the second year in a row. So what happened?

Coach Ted Shipley says it was fatigue that brought the Spartans down in the end.

"We wore down a bit. The college baseball season is a physical grind, and fitness and staying physically strong is the key to peaking at the right time," he said. "We need to learn from this and do a better job with our fitness throughout the entire season."

Fatigue or no fatigue, the Spartans had a shot at reclaiming their throne atop the NAC. They just caught a bad break, or a bad bounce if you want to look at it that way.

With a 6-4 lead in the bottom of the ninth of the NAC championship game, the Spartans could taste victory. The inning started ominously as the Eagles' leadoff runner reached base with a bunt single against Spartan reliever Tyler Erickson. Erickson, though, retired the next two batters. He then faced Nick Anthers, NAC Player of the Year, who drew a walk. The next batter, Jeff Miller, got hit by a pitch, loading the bases up.

Then came the game-changing moment.

The Spartan coaching staff decided to make a pitching change to bring in Aaron Zrenda, who had not pitched all season because of an elbow injury. Zrenda faced the designated hitter, Dennis Graham.

"He felt good, looked great in the bullpen, and was the right guy for the job in the situation we were in," Shipley said.

With two strikes and two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Graham delivered a devastating blow as he tied the game up with a double.

With Miller at third, Jake Arther approached the plate for Husson. The first pitch that he saw sailed into the dirt close to home plate. The ball took the bad bounce, and Miller stole home, thus ending the Spartans' campaign to repeat as NAC champions.

Kyle Brooks, the Spartan catcher, said that there has never been a defeat more crushing than this one.

"I am a senior so, I think I speak for all seniors on the team when I say that we had very high expectations, and to not get the job done was one of the most devastating losses any of us have had. To be so close to any championship and let it slip through your fingers, it hurts," he said.

The Spartans will now have the offseason to reflect on the season they put together and how it went wrong in the end. When they return to action next season, one thing will be for sure: this team will be looking for revenge and looking to prove themselves.

"[The Spartans] are going to be coming in with a lot of strong arms again, and will be even hungrier for the NAC championship and winning games in Regionals, Brooks said.

Junior third baseman Billy Manley echoed Brooks' sentiments about next year's team, adding a bold prediction for next year's team.

"We will win the NAC next season, no doubt in my mind," he said.

Mt. Ida sticks it to CSC - again

By Chadwick Cioffi
Castleton Spartan

Mount Ida had already taken its first loss in North Atlantic Conference history to Castleton earlier this season, wearing away jerseys in the conference championship for the first time ever. In the first three minutes of the championship game, junior midfielder Jake Rick and senior attack Ryan Bartlett each scored for the Spartans. Jumping out to a 2-0 lead had the crowd filling the campus with roars and cheers. Alumni, parents, administration and students on site were preparing to bear witness to the downfall of the Mustangs. The noise that was building the Spartan momentum was quickly drowned out, though, when Mount Ida began a six-goal scoring run. After the Mustangs scored two goals before halftime and another seven immediately following half, the 18-4 lead held as the Spartans placed second in the NAC again.

"It was a tough loss to swallow," said senior defenseman Jason Jakimer. "Our coaches put it best, though; we went in believing we were going to win. We got caught off guard. They studied us better than we did them."

JOHN SHRAMEK / CASTLETON SPARTAN

Ryan Bartlett goes in for a ground ball outnumbered 3-1 by Mt. Ida players

Freshman attack Kevin McCarthy agreed that the loss wasn't expected.

"I had all these images of us beating Ida. On the morning of the game, I felt like the man. I felt really good. But Ida just picked us apart," he said of the 25-9 loss.

Bartlett and senior attack Phil Barry led Castleton with two goals each. Junior midfielder Kirk Bolduc and McCarthy each scored a goal and assisted on a goal. Sophomore midfielder Derek Riley and junior midfielder Mike Martinez each scored a goal as well.

Even with the loss to the Mustangs, the Spartans earned a bid into the Eastern College Athletic Conference tournament. Castleton was paired up against New England College. The Spartans were unable to prevail again, finishing their season with a 9-5 loss.

"I wanted my last game to be one where I had fun, but wasn't pissed off. I just wanted to have fun whether we won or lost," said Jakimer.

Senior goalie Mike Mamunes shared Jakimer's sentiments.

"That game was just all about having fun. It was my last game."

The Spartans were able to finally stamp a NAC loss on Mount Ida's record, and Castleton hosted its first conference championship. These experiences will help next year, according to sophomore attack Mike DelDotto.

"Personally I had a very bad season, but as a team we had a great season. We finally beat Ida and played a great game against Kean," he said pointing out the milestones of the season. "It's all about baby steps; we beat Ida once this year. We'll do it twice next year."

The Rooster

Steve McNulty

For the first time in mo than 10 years, the NBA pla offs are must-watch TV. Se ously, was anybody remote interested when the Spurs a Pistons dominated the mo mind-numbingly boring tou nament in the history of ma I would rather watch paint d or grass grow. I would rath make out with Susan Boyle. would rather watch NASCA Have I gone too far?

However, much to my d light, the playoffs are begi ning to resemble basketbal heyday of the years befo Jordan's departure from t Chicago Bulls. In fact, Chic go was once again at the cent of the basketball world just la week. The Baby Bulls took th defending champion Celtics the brink in the best first-rou series I've ever seen. Seve overtimes in seven games. was glued to my television. felt so good to have my Bul back and to watch the Celti squirm. So long as upper-ma agement plays their cards rig (and avoids pulling a New Yo Knicks), this Bulls team will b a serious contender for the ne ten years.

But there's a problen They'll be contending wit the Cavaliers and King Jame Lebron is half man, half bo half beast. Yes, my math correct...he is one and a ha people. There hasn't been basketball player to single handedly vault his team to th upper echelon of the leagu since—well—you know whe But let us not rush into labelin this 24-year-old freak of natur as "The Next Jordan." For on he's already lost an NBA Final series, something that Jorda never even came close to do ing. But more importantly by the time his career is ove people will be asking, "Who i the next Lebron?" He is tha good. He may never matc Jordan in championships, bu basketball fans will be tossin chalk until the day Lebron call it quits.

Oddly enough, it look likely that Lebron's first cham pionship run will have to g through Los Angeles. Thi path is eerily familiar to th one taken by—well—yo know who. Kobe and Co. ar on a mission from God. Kob wants another NBA champion ship like Rush Limbaugh want another Oxycontin—really, re ally bad. He's got the support ing cast and coaching staff o a potential NBA championshi team, but will the Lakers be too beat up once they reach the Finals? While the Cavs have a relatively easy ride to the Finals (only the Magic have a remote chance of beating them), the Lakers have to fight through a much tougher Western Confer ence.

The Lakers' second-round opponent, the Houston Rock ets, have brought back the ag gressive mentality of the De troit Bad Boys of the late '80s and early '90s. The first three games of the series have been pretty chippy, thanks in large part to Ron Artest. Artest has been one of my favorite NBA players since he began practic ing vigilante justice by throw ing haymakers at unruly fans. His temper has simmered a bit, but he is still proving to be a thorn in Kobe's side. It's too bad that the Rockets lost Yao Ming on Saturday night. Sorry boys, season over.

All the NBA needs now is a legitimate rivalry. Let's hope Kobe vs. Lebron is all that it will be cracked up to be.